

**Marblehead Disabilities Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2019**

**Members Present:** Laurie Blaisdell, Katie Farrell, Andrea Mountain, Preston Ford, Cheryl LaLonde, Sue Harris  
**Guests Present:** Jamie Andrews, Tina Rhodes, Rebecca Cutting, Timothy Shotmeyer

Laurie called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

1. Minutes from the July 11, 2019 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved as amended.
2. Hobbs Playground. Jamie Andrews and Tina Rhodes, representatives from the Marblehead Family Fund, described their plans to redo Hobbs Playground. The new playground will be handicapped accessible and include several pieces of equipment that will accommodate children with physical disabilities. The Family Fund is working with the Recreation and Parks Commission on this effort and is raising private funds for the project. Final plans are pending approval by the Recreation and Parks Commission.
3. MA Commission on Disabilities Grant Application. Town Planner Becky Cutting updated the Commission on the application she will be submitting to the MA Commission on Disabilities for a planning grant to update the Town's ADA self-evaluation and transition plans. She expects the grant request will be for about \$30,000 to hire a consultant to assist the Town in creating the new plans. She will determine the exact amount once she receives information she has requested from other Massachusetts towns that recently have engaged consultants for this purpose. She expects to submit the application in the next few days and asked the Commission to submit a letter of support. The Commission unanimously agreed to do so.
4. Trees. Ms. Cutting also is involved in working with the new Tree Warden, John Fobert, on a town master plan for trees. The Commission reiterated its concern about the impact of existing and new trees on the accessibility of sidewalks and discussed how to insure that this impact is taken into account as the Town plants new trees.
5. Coordination with Sustainable Marblehead. Tim Shotmeyer, a member of Sustainable Marblehead's Transportation Group, has agreed to be that group's liaison to the Commission. Tim and the Commission discussed how the Commission and Sustainable Marblehead might work together on areas of mutual interest, such as repair and maintenance of sidewalks and insuring that sidewalks are shoveled during the winter months.
6. Water Accessibility – Boat Ramps. Andrea reported on her visit to the new accessible boat ramp in Manchester, which was funded by a federal grant. Laurie reported that the Town has purchased a new ramp for Village Street access to Salem Harbor that is being built by a Marblehead business. The new ramp was built so that wheelchairs could use it, but is not otherwise ADA compliant. Preston has been in touch with Harbor Master Mark Souza and will contact him again regarding making the dock at the Harbor Master's building accessible and compliant.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Harris, Member