



Marblehead Disabilities Commission

Meeting Minutes – April 10th, 2024

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Dee Cuffe, Briggete Duffy, Amy Hirschcron (*remote*), Samantha Marino (*remote*)

Members Absent: Cheryl LaLonde, Ed Lang, Andrea Mountain

Guests Present: Kyle Wylie

Ms. Blaisdell called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

1. Upon motion by Ms. Duffy, seconded by Ms. Cuffee, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 13th, 2024 meeting.

2. Review ADA Plan. Ms. Blaisdell invited Mr. Thatcher Kezer, Town Administrator, to the upcoming Marblehead Disabilities Commission meeting for May 8th 2024; however it has not yet been solidified due to his full schedule with the Town Meeting coming up. Ms. Blaisdell will keep the Commission updated as to which upcoming meeting he will join.

3. Follow-Up: Pole at Stacy and Washington. The entire intersection has been updated as the curb and extra pavement was removed. It will further be updated once the project is closer to completion. Ms. Blaisdell explained that the DPW and Light Commission are now talking about how they will work together to address installing poles during future projects.

Related: Ms. Blaisdell reported that Ms. Amy McHugh, Head of DPW and Water/Sewer Commission, reached out asking to attend a future MDC meeting in order to discuss the following questions as she is looking for guidance or creative solutions: 1. How to address difficulties with town sidewalks in relation to the impact that tree roots are affecting how passable the sidewalks are. Ms. McHugh had noted that ramps over the sidewalks or taking out all of the trees that have impacted the passable planes of the sidewalks, are not viable options. She also requested further clarification as to whether a curb cut must always be on a crosswalk. Discussion ensued, and Ms. Hirschcron will look into the regulations and laws governing this.

4. Follow-Up: 139 Pleasant Street. Ms. Blaisdell reported that there has been no follow-up in relation to this issue. She attempted to reach out both to the owner of 139 Pleasant, as well as the Architectural Access Board, and no new information has been reported. MDC will continue to follow this issue.

5. Follow-Up: Dolphin Yacht Club. An anonymous letter was received by Ms. Blaisdell expressing concern regarding accessibility to upstairs bathrooms at the Dolphin Yacht Club, as they recently underwent minor renovations. Ms. Blaisdell worked with the building commissioner and found that the yacht club did not pull permits, nor was the building built after 1991, so they were not legally



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required to make the bathrooms in question ADA compliant.

6. Goals for 2024. The Commission expressed interest in hosting a regional disability commission meeting with towns on the north shore (Salem, Lynn, Swampscott, Beverly, etc.).

7. New Business: Disabled Parking at Town Meeting. Ms. Hirkshon was approached by a town member over the past month stating that there is concern for not enough parking for the upcoming Town Meeting. Ms. Blaisdell confirmed that there is indeed enough handicap parking as it meets ADA ratio requirements. Town residents who would benefit from preferential parking. Are encouraged to attain a handicap parking placard, should they meet requirements. MDC members that are attending the Town Meeting will also keep an eye on it, and will be receptive to complaints, should some arise.

8. New Business: Town planner - Ms. Blaisdell talked to the new town planner about MDC's recommendation to target Devereux Beach with the funds procured from the MOD grant. The town planner was receptive and explained that she must take into account the recommendations made by Mr. Kezer, Town Administrator, so a meeting with him, the town planner, and the MDC was recommended to discuss this plan.

The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 8th, 2024

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Marino, Secretary and Commission Member

Approved by unanimous vote of the Commission: _____

Appendix:

Documents available upon request:

- Anonymous letter re: Dolphin Yacht Club