

Marblehead Disabilities Commission
Meeting Minutes of Thursday, June 12, 2015

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Ron Grenier, Andrea Mountain, Caroline Curtis, and Ed Lang.

Approve Minutes of May 14, 2015 Meeting: Lang moved to approve minutes; motion seconded by Curtis. **VOTE: 5-0.**

Kyle Wiley/ADA Coordinator: Wiley came before the Commission to brief us on the status of items previously raised in a meeting with her and John McGinn. Wiley reported that minutes of the Commission's meetings will be posted on the Town's web site as requested in a week or so. She also reported that the Commission's draft accessibility survey of town owned facilities had been reviewed and minor changes had been made. These changes were briefly reviewed and approved by the Commission. **Lang moved to approve revisions which were seconded by Curtis. Vote = 5-0.**

Blaisdell asked Wiley whether the Commission would be receiving plans for renovation projects in the earliest stages of design or application to the town, something we had also raised with the Town Administrator and her. Blaisdell said we were pleased to receive early notification and copies of plans recently for the Town's Old Burial Hill project and from the Eastern Yacht Club for its renovations. Wiley said that she thought earlier notice would continue but could not be guaranteed. She thought that through various sources such as the Reporter which is at the Commission's disposal we would be able to catch a project's evolution in its early stages.

Grenier agreed but expressed the Commission's concern about having a process in place. This led to a more prolonged discussion about the role of the building inspector in approving public and commercial projects in terms of satisfying accessibility or ADA compliance. The Commission finally agreed that it would be most useful to invite Bob Ives to our next July meeting to better understand his process and where we could be helpful, if at all. Lang said he would call Ives to set this up.

Page Two

Wiley brought to our attention that the Commission's previous vote to transfer funds from fines for handicap parking violations had not been executed. The Disabilities Commission in recognition for the Park and Recreation's overwhelming support and adoption of our Commission's accessibility recommendations. We had voted to approve a one thousand dollar transfer into the Devereux Beach Playground account accordingly. Wiley said this could not be completed until the Board of selectmen approved the transfer. The Commission's options were to come before the Board of Selectmen or write a letter seeking this request which would then be taken up at one of their upcoming meetings.

Update on Devereux Beach Playground: Blaisdell advised that the playground's opening will be held on June 20th. She said the Park and Rec staff wanted to ensure that all the new items included the new mobility mats were in place before the event. Blaisdell indicated that all the planks and ramps we previously pointed out as needing adjustment were stabilized as well. Lang mentioned that the handicap parking spaces could use a new coat of blue paint to distinguish them more boldly. Lang said he would follow up on this. In these minutes we wanted to recognize again the support and wonderful cooperation of Chip Osborne and Tim Short without whom our accessibility concerns would not have been addressed.

Old Burial Hill Steps Variance Application: Grenier reported that he had passed on to Becky Curran the Commission's recommendation from the last meeting to add the installation of a second railing to ensure improved accessibility. He indicated that this change was indeed made to the project's design bid documents. Blaisdell asked for a motion to send a letter of support for the project's variance to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board. **Motion so moved by Lang and seconded by Mountain. Vote = 5-0**

Eastern Yacht Club (EYC) Variance Application: Blaisdell asked Grenier to brief the Commission as he had met with project officials at the site recently. Grenier stated EYC was primarily seeking a variance to the outside exterior staircases on either side of the facility. The variance also included one inside staircase. He explained that in lieu of retaining the exterior stairs the EYC is reconstructing new

Page Three

accessible pathways and front entrances to the club's ground floors located on the water side and Harbor Avenue side, including a new handicap drop off area. In addition, interior hallways are being widened and made accessible to get to their elevator. The entire first floor transitions to porches and dining room are being elevated for handicap access to those areas, including construction of a handicap accessible bathroom. Of the fifteen guestrooms, one is being entirely made handicap accessible and another is being made handicap friendly. Railings to the interior grand staircase and the exterior steps are also being added to facilitate access. Lang who also toured the project reinforced the degree to which the EYC has gone to make this facility considerably more accessible than it ever was.

Curtis moved to send a letter of support to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board recommending it approve the EYC's variance application; Mountain seconded. **Vote = 4-0 (Lang recused himself)**

Adjourn: Curtis motioned to conclude the meeting; motion seconded by Mountain **VOTE: 5-0.**

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 9th.

Respectfully Submitted
Ron Grenier