

**Marblehead Disabilities Commission  
Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2021**

**Members Present:** Laurie Blaisdell, Andrea Mountain, Preston Ford, Katie Farrell, Amy Hirschkron, Sue Harris  
**Guests Present:** Jocelyn Cook, James Ashton, Tim Shotmeyer, Richard Remos

Laurie called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

Minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

Proposal for Community Boating Center at Parker's Boatyard. Jocelyn and James discussed their project to revitalize Parker's Boatyard. They have submitted a 3-year proposal to the Harbors and Waters Board for improvements to the Boatyard, including the development of a Community Boating Center that would offer boating programs for kids and adults, improve the existing building at the site, provide rentals of kayaks and other boats, expand parking on the site, offer onsite storage for kayaks and other boats, and make water access from the site ADA compliant and fully accessible. The Commission agreed that this is an exciting and worthwhile project and committed to working with Jocelyn and James as the project progresses to insure full accessibility of the site.

Next Meeting Invitees and Topics. Laurie reported that Lori Ehrlich, Jason Silva, and Jeff Dougan of the MA Office on Disability have agreed to attend the March meeting. Laurie will notify the attendees in advance of the topics the Commission would like them to discuss, in order of importance: (1) sidewalk and road upgrade concerns; (2) funds available for renovations to improve harbor access; (3) accessibility requirements for public bathrooms; (4) need for change in accessibility requirements for long-existing restaurants and other businesses that have not triggered the alteration regulations; and (5) any pending legislation relating to disabilities, including revival of the Accessible Massachusetts Act (H. 4425), proposed in the last MA legislative session.

Training for Commission Members. Sue spoke with Jeff Dougan, the Commission's liaison to the Massachusetts Office on Disability, about possible training on disability law for the Commission. Jeff is creating a consolidated Zoom version of the MOD's 2-day Community Access Monitor Program, which would provide a comprehensive overview of federal and state laws/regulations on discrimination based on disability and accessibility requirements, and offered the Commission a trial run of the new training. The Commission enthusiastically agreed that such training would be worthwhile. Sue will re-contact Jeff to arrange a schedule for this training.

Coordination with Other Town Boards/Commissions. Sue spoke with Lynn Bryant, Executive Director of Sustainable Marblehead, about possible coordination with the Commission on garnering community support for sidewalk improvements. Lynn is open to this idea.

Miscellaneous. Katie said that a tour of the new elementary school will be available to Commission members in May. Also, the Fair Housing Committee is looking into the development of new low income housing in Marblehead, possibly at the old Coffin or Gerry School sites. Katie will coordinate Commission input into this project as it progresses.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Harris, Member