

Marblehead Disabilities Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2021

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Preston Ford, Andrea Mountain, Amy Hirschkron, Sue Harris
Guests Present (who consented to be identified): Rich Ramos, Pamela Daly, Nancy Powell

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

1. The minutes of the May 13, 2021 meeting were approved.
2. Upcoming Harbors and Waters Board Meeting. The Commission is on the agenda for the June 7 meeting of the Harbors and Waters Board. Amy reviewed ADA requirements relating to recreational facilities, including boating facilities, and other harbor-related programs. Laurie will send an email to the Board in advance of the meeting outlining these requirements and the Commission's concern that its letter sent to the Board in December has not been responded to. The Commission discussed and agreed that, through Laurie as our spokesperson, it would raise the following issues/concerns at the meeting: (1) accessible access to back entrance by installing a keypad, as previously agreed by the Harbor Master, and keeping interior access to this door clear, with a specific date to implement; (2) commitment from the Board to work with the Commission to comply with the ADA 2010 Design Standards relating to harbor matters; (4) cooperate with the Commission on installing a moveable Hoyer lift on the harbor, which will be funded by private parties. The Commission also will ask the Board for information on a Town harbor plan that has been referenced in various public meetings.
3. 139 Pleasant Street. Amy and Sue updated the Commission on the status of the building at 139 Pleasant Street. Originally zoned as mixed use (commercial and residential), the owners of this building requested a variance to compliance with access requirements for the commercial first floor. The AAB denied this request, but later modified it after an adjudicatory hearing requested by the owners to require compliance by 2/4/2022. In April 2019, the building owners withdrew their variance request and obtained a re-zoning from the Zoning Board to residential use only. Subsequently, the owners requested a return to zoning as mixed use – commercial on the first floor and residential above. The Commission is working the Jeff Dougan of the Massachusetts Office of Disabilities to determine if the building still is required to comply with accessibility requirements for the commercial space.
4. Next Meetings. Laurie will try to obtain a more spacious location at the Park & Rec building for the Commission's July meeting. There will be no meeting in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 8, at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Harris, Commission Member