

Marblehead Disabilities Commission  
Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2021

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Preston Ford, Amy Hirschkron, Katie Farrell, Samantha Marino, Sue Harris  
Guests Present (who consented to be identified): James Ashton

Laurie called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

1. The minutes of the July 8, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Marblehead Harbor. The Commission discussed recent activities of the Harbor and Waters Board regarding accessibility to the Harbor, including discussion at its July 12 meeting. The Commission also reviewed a response from Harbormaster Mark Souza to Laurie's questions regarding statements made by the Board chair in a recent letter to the editor of the Marblehead Reporter. The Commission agreed to invite Souza to our September meeting to discuss the process the Board is using to determine ADA compliance at various piers/docks around town, if it is using the ADA 2010 Design Standards to determine compliance, and how the Commission can best assist the Board in achieving ADA compliance. Commission members will visit the piers/docks cited in Souza's response to determine if there are any remaining compliance issues before the next Commission meeting. The Commission also agreed to work with Souza to seek funding for two Hoyer lifts, one on Marblehead Harbor (at Harbormaster's office dock is preferred) and one on Salem Harbor at Stramski's. Finally, the Commission has asked Jason Silva to be included on a group being formed to work with the consultant to be hired to rewrite Marblehead's harbor plan.
3. 139 Pleasant Street. Amy updated the Commission on the status of compliance issues with the building at 139 Pleasant Street. She recently spoke with Mark Lesser, the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board's Compliance Officer, who called her today to report that the opening of a business at 139 Pleasant Street without an accessible entrance violates 521 CMR 25.1, the MAAB regulation on accessible entrances. The MAAB will be sending a notice of non-compliance to the Warrens, who will have 14 days to respond. Notice also will be sent to the Marblehead building inspector.
4. Brown School. The opening of the new Brown School has been delayed until October 13. Katie reported that the contractor will be calling Laurie to arrange a tour date for the Commission. Amy will try to locate a checklist for building inspections for accessibility.
5. Town Map. The Commission agreed to work on publishing a town map identifying accessible businesses and other locations, based on prior research, starting in the fall.
6. Sidewalks. The Commission agreed that a future project will be to determine the cost to the Town to make all sidewalks accessible and sponsor a Town warrant for an override to fund the cost.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 9, at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Harris, Commission Member