

Marblehead Disabilities Commission
Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2021

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Andrea Mountain, Amy Hirschkron, Katie Farrell, Samantha Marino, Cheryl LaLonde, Ed Lang, Sue Harris

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

1. 139 Pleasant Street Update. Laurie received a copy of the first notice of complaint issued by the Architectural Access Board to the owners of 139 Pleasant Street citing them for failure to have an accessible entrance to a commercial space in violation of 521 CMR 25.1. Amy learned that the owners responded within the required 14-day period stating that they had hired a local architect to draft architectural plans showing feasibility and/or placement options for accessibility. Once the AAB receives these plans, the owners will have 90 days to complete the work.
2. Harbor Access. The Commission has not yet been able to visit Marblehead public docks on the Marblehead and Salem Harbor sides to examine their accessibility. The intent is to review whether all public docks have the required double railings, a way for wheelchairs to negotiate the dock, appropriate transition plates at the top, bottom and between docks (if applicable), and handicapped parking. Members agreed on who would visit specific docks and document the results. The Commission will report the results with the Harbors and Waters Board. The Commission noted that this review will not be a full review of legal accessibility requirements.
3. Proposal for Beach Access. A Marblehead resident attended the meeting to propose insuring that Devereaux Beach has a means for disabled individuals to get to the water. The Commission explained that Devereaux does have a special mat that is laid over the sand to allow such access and a beach wheelchair. These items were funded by the Marblehead Rotary about 20 years ago. The Commission agreed to publicize the availability of this access next Spring.
4. Brown School. Katie has not yet been able to schedule a date for the Commission to tour the new school. Opening currently is scheduled for October 15. We would like to tour the facility well in advance of the opening.
5. Transfer Station Access. Laurie relayed a recent conversation with a Marblehead property owner about her inability to access the transfer station to dispose of items collected from her disabled tenants. Laurie spoke with the Board of Health about the issue. The Commission agreed that, given the facts, there was no violation of disability rights.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 14, at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Harris, Commission Member

Minutes approved: October 14, 2021 by vote of the Commission