

Marblehead Disabilities Commission
Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2021

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Amy Hirschkron, Samantha Marino, Cheryl LaLonde, Sue Harris

Members Absent: Katie Farrell, Andrea Mountain, Ed Lang

Guests: Robert French (Marblehead Conservancy Inc.), Pam Daly

Laurie called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. Upon motion by Amy, seconded by Samantha, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the of the October 14, 2021, meeting.
2. Marblehead Conservancy. Bob French described Marblehead Conservancy, a non-profit organization with an all volunteer membership that has been in existence since 2001. Although its mission includes trails, land, and education, its main area of focus is the five miles of trails in Town, which it maintains. The Commission discussed with Bob how we can work with the Conservancy to insure that any work done to alter these trails is ADA compliant and agreed to assist the Conservancy with future projects.
3. Harbor Access. Amy reported on the meeting she and Sue had with Harbor Master Mark Souza regarding accessibility of Tucker’s Wharf, Stramski’s and Village gangways and docks, as well as a plan to install a Hoyer lift on at least one public dock. They concluded that Tucker’s Wharf is likely the best possibility – it is largely accessible, with items on order to make it fully accessible (e.g., transition plates). Mark agreed about the need to address other issues Amy and Sue identified there and will work on them – examples included adding an additional lower handrail on the gangways, doing something to highlight to visitors the open spaces on either side of the top of the gangways, perhaps adding an additional accessible parking space in the lot on a seasonal basis, and adding a ramp between the Tucker’s Wharf area and State Street Landing. He also agreed to add issues Amy and Sue identified at Stramski’s and Village to his “punch list” for winter action to the extent possible. Action items agreed on: Mark to research Hoyer lifts suitable for outdoor use in a saltwater environment; Sue and Amy to visit the Marblehead Yacht Club to assess suitability for a Hoyer lift; Sue and Amy to research additional Town insurance requirements, if any, associated with installation of a lift. Amy and Sue also discussed with Mark fundraising for the lift after the cost is determined. The Commission’s goal is to go before the Harbors and Waters Board at its January meeting to seek approval for installation of a Hoyer lift at Tucker’s Wharf.
The keypad needed for access to the accessible rear door of the Harbor Master’s office is on backorder and has been for several months. The Commission discussed suggesting to Mark that a temporary keypad (readily available but not suitable for salt water environments) be added temporarily pending receipt of the backordered item.
4. Harbor Planning Committee. Upon motion by Sue, seconded by Samantha, the Commission unanimously voted to appoint Amy as the Commission’s representative to the Harbor Planning Committee.

Upon motion by Sue and seconded by Amy, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Harris, Commission Member

Minutes approved: December 9, 2021, by unanimous vote of the Commission

