

Marblehead Disabilities Commission  
Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2022

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

**Guests Present:** Nancy Powell

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

1. Upon motion by Amy, seconded by Samantha, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2021, meeting.
2. Harbor Updates. Amy reported that she and Sue have mostly completed their research on sling lifts, either manual or battery powered, that would be appropriate for installation at Tucker's Wharf. The cost of the most expensive option would be about \$3500. Amy also spoke with the person who handles insurance for the Town, who said that there would be no additional premium cost to add the installed lift to the policy, but only a small administrative fee for making the change. They are working to connect with a disabled sailor for input on whether our current plan makes sense before approaching Mark about getting on the Harbors and Waters Board agenda to request its approval for the project.
3. Meeting with Board of Selectmen. The Commission discussed issues we would like to address with the Board of Selectmen at a meeting we plan to invite them to attend in a couple of months. Laurie presented several ideas, including: review of the Commission's mission; the need for Town departments, boards and commissions to consult with the Commission about new projects to insure ADA compliance, including examples of town projects that have not considered accessibility and the cost of changes required as a result; the need to educate various departments about ADA requirements; and how best to utilize the Commission to assist in all these areas. Amy agreed to contact the Disabilities Commissions of three other MA towns about how they have addressed these issues. Laurie will send out a draft of her proposal for issues to address with the Board, and the Commission will continue this discussion at our next meeting. The Commission will invite the Board to a meeting in a couple of months.
4. Town Map of Accessible Locations. Sue reported on her meeting with Katherine Koch, the new Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, regarding adding indications of accessibility to the businesses and Points of Interest identified on the Chamber's annual Visitors' Guide and to Chamber members' listings on the Chamber's website. After discussion, and because the Guide includes only those Chamber members who have paid for an ad or listing, it was decided to pursue two additional options: adding notations to the map given out at the Town's Information Booth, and exploring creating a separate one-page "flyer" with a complete listing of accessible businesses and public locations that could be inserted into the Guide and/or made available at the Information Booth. Sue will contact Katherine about these options.
5. 139 Pleasant Street Update. Laurie reported on a letter she received from the Architectural Access Board regarding this property. A virtual hearing before the AAB is scheduled for February 7 at 11 a.m. to consider the property owners' request for a variance to ADA requirements. The Commission agreed to send another letter to the ADA opposing this variance request and detailing the history of this property. Laurie, Sue and Amy will work on the letter and a script for Laurie's remarks if she is able to actively participate in the hearing.
6. Brown School. Laurie will follow up with Jeff Dougan, Massachusetts, about progress on correcting the ADA issues with the Brown School that he identified on his site visit in the fall.

Upon motion by Amy, seconded by Sue, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 10, at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Harris, Commission Member

Minutes approved: \_\_\_\_\_ by unanimous vote of the Commission