

**Marblehead Disabilities Commission  
Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2022**

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

**Guests Present:** Rich Ramos, Nancy Powell, Pamela Daly

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 January 13, 2022, meeting.
2. Harbor Lift Update. A proposal for installation of a lift at Tucker's Wharf, drafted by Amy and Sue, was distributed to Commission members prior to the meeting for their review and approval. Amy reported that next steps are for Sue and Amy to meet with Mark Souza regarding the proposal and address any concerns he might have. Rich raised the concern that Tucker's Wharf is not public, and that anyone docking there to use the lift would need to dock on one end. Laurie suggested State Street Landing as another possibility, and the Commission discussed accessibility issues with this location that would need to be addressed. Sue and Amy will discuss this issue with Mark. The Commission approved going forward with this plan and revising the proposal as necessary based on the meeting with Mark Souza. Assuming we can get on the agenda, Sue and Amy will present the proposal to the Harbors and Waters Board at its March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:30 p.m. The Commission also discussed several fundraising options for the lift and possibly modifications to the location to make it accessible. Amy and Sue will meet again with a friend of Amy's with experience in fundraising who has agreed to help. The Commission also discussed how best to publicize fundraising if the Board approves our proposal. Ideas include adding a blurb to the Commission website and expanding or recreating the existing Commission Facebook page. Andrea and Samantha agreed to work on these ideas.
3. Town Map of Accessible Locations. The Commission agreed to go forward with working with the Chamber of Commerce to add an accessibility designation to public "points of interest" on the Chamber's Visitor's Guide, including adding additional locations if possible. The Commission also agreed to a project to create a separate one-page "flyer" with a complete listing of accessible businesses and public locations. Katherine Koch, the Chamber's ED, has agreed to distribute such a flyer at the Chamber's office and the Information Booth. that could be inserted into the Guide and/or made available at the Information Booth.
4. 139 Pleasant Street Update. Laurie reported that the virtual hearing before the AAB to consider the property owners' request for a variance to ADA requirements has been re- scheduled for February 28 at 1 p.m. . The Commission discussed the letter sent to the AAB regarding this matter, signed by Laurie, that was provided to Commission members in advance of the meeting. Laurie and Sue will try to attend this meeting and report back to the Commission.
5. Future Invitees. As previously discussed, we will invite Joanne Miller, member of the Board of Health, to our March meeting to discuss areas of mutual concern and ways we might work together. The Commission agreed that our planned invitation to the Board of Selectmen to attend a meeting should be postponed. Also discussed was possibly extending an invitation to John Devers, Highway Department, and John Albright, new building inspector.
6. New Business. The Commission discussed the need for a sign language interpreter and publicizing the right of disabled people to request accommodations for Town Meeting. Amy, Samantha, and Laurie agreed to work on this issue.

Upon motion by Sue seconded by Amy, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Harris, Commission Member

Minutes approved 3/10/2022 by unanimous vote of the Commission