

Marblehead Disabilities Commission  
Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2022

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Amy Hirschcron, Katie Farrell, Andrea Mountain, Rich Ramos,  
Samantha Marino, Sue Harris  
Members Absent: Cheryl LaLonde, Ed Lang  
Guests Present: Nancy Powell, Lynn Nadeau, Pamela Daly

Laurie called the meeting to order at 4:21 p.m.

1. Upon motion by Sue, seconded by Samantha, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2022, meeting.
2. Town Warrant Article to Require Remote Access to Town Board/Committee Meetings. Lynn Nadeau discussed the warrant article she had proposed for Town meeting to require all Town boards and commissions to provide remote access to and record all meetings. The final outcome was that an “implementation” committee would be appointed by the Moderator to address the issue. Upon motion by Amy, seconded by Sue, the Commission unanimously voted that Laurie contact Gary Speiss to request that at least 2 members of the Commission be included on this committee and that all committee meetings have remote access. Lynn also noted that there are currently pending in both houses of the MA legislature bills that would accomplish the same result. Amy reminded us that a 2015 law amended the Open Meeting law to allow disabilities commissions to vote to make all meetings remote.
3. Harbor Matters Updates  
*Harbor Lift and Harbor Donation Fund:* The Mariner group donated \$6,000 for purchase of the lift and ongoing maintenance. The lift has been ordered and should be delivered about May 20. Amy met with Mark Souza to discuss location of the lockbox and the instructional sign. She has designed an online form that will provide access to the lockbox and allow the Commission and the Harbormaster to collect information about usage of the lift. Printed instructions also will be available. Amy reported that Mark will install a new transition plate onto the State Street gangway before the lift is in use. Laurie raised concerns about placement of the lift and will contact Mark to discuss in detail.  
*Harbor Donation Fund:* Laurie agreed to document all credits and debits to the Harbor donation account. The Commission agreed that the \$519 advanced from the handicapped parking fine fund to reimburse Amy for the lift anchor will be reimbursed to that fund from the Harbor donation fund.  
*Harbor Working Group:* There is a public meeting of this group scheduled for May 16 at 6 p.m., at Abbot Hall, to be followed by a Zoom meeting at a later date. The Group also will be putting out an online survey. Laurie will contact Becky Cutting about making the May 16 meeting available via Zoom.
4. Town Dog Park. Laurie reported to Kyle Wylie that the Town dog park is not accessible. She will follow up.
5. Emergency Management and Preparedness. Laurie received notice of a webinar on Emergency Management and Preparedness – Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, sponsored by the MA Emergency Management Agency. She registered but did not receive a link to the meeting and was unable to access. She will follow up.
6. Logo for Disabilities Commission. Sam reached out to the high school art department about designing a logo for the Commission but has not yet heard back. She will also contact the Charter School.
7. Village Plaza Accessibility: Sue will draft a letter to the owners of Village Plaza requesting that they install a sign on the door to the ramp to the upper level indicating that it is an accessible entrance, install a notice of the location of this ramp at the base of all stairs leading to the second level, and notify all tenants of the Plaza of the availability and location of the ramp. The Commission agreed that Laurie will send this letter.

8. Town Map of Accessible Locations. The Commission agreed that the following categories currently on the working list will be deleted: yacht clubs, retail stores (except grocery stores, drug stores, and West Marine). Commission members surveying locations should describe any accessibility issues they find on the Google spreadsheet or in an email to Sue. Sue reported that Katherine Koch, ED of the Chamber of Commerce, is committed to including any list of accessible locations in the Chamber's Town Guide.

9. New Business.

*DC Website*. Andrea will add Rich to the list of Commission members on the DC website. The list of accessible locations on the website also needs to be updated.

*Town Outreach*: Laurie will go to the Building Department to reintroduce herself and the Commission and offer assistance for new or renovated commercial locations before permits are issued. The Commission discussed the need to create a plan to ensure that all relevant Town boards and commissions consult the Commission in the process of approving/implementing any changes to, or new ,structures or programs.

Upon motion by Sue, seconded by Amy, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Harris, Commission Member

Approved by unanimous vote of the Commission: \_\_\_\_\_