



## Marblehead Disabilities Commission

Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2023

**Members Present:** Laurie Blaisdell (*remote*), Dee Cuffe (*remote*), Katie Farrell (*remote*), Amy Hirschkron (*remote*), Cheryl LaLonde (*remote*), Ed Lang (*remote*), Samantha Marino (*remote*), Andrea Mountain (*remote*)

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests Present:** Nancy Powell (*remote*), Pamela Daly (*remote*)

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Ms. Blaisdell called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m.

1. Upon motion by Ms. LaLonde, seconded by Ms. Mountain, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 2023 meeting. The Commission also welcomed Ms. Dee Cuffe as its newest member.

### 2. Future Projects.

- Deveareaux:
  1. Ramp at restaurant - Ms. Daly stated it is unsafe when accessing it via wheelchair.
  2. Playground - Not fully accessible with additional gaps around the ramp.
  3. Blue Sand Mat - Unusable if it does not fully abutt the asphalt, go over the sand, and into the water.
  4. Bathroom- Sand is too deep to reach the bathroom in the parking lot, especially in a wheelchair. Once the sand is leveled, pot holes are filled with the sand, which causes uneven/dangerous passing, especially when using mobility devices.
    - Will cross-reference the Harbor Plan initiatives with the above listed items. Additionally, Ms. Blaisdell will check in with the Eagle Scouts to see if some of these projects may be completed through them.
- Rail Trail - Discussion ensued about the new curb cuts on the rail trail that cross Pleasant Street, and how it has increased accessibility. Ms. Blaisdel will follow-up with the town to see if the trail will be updated further, potentially covering the trail in packed stone dust. Additionally, Ms. LaLonde expressed concern that there are no spots to rest, like benches, in case individuals need to sit.
- Second Lift on Salem Harbor - The idea of installing a second lift, potentially at Stramski's or Village Street, was brought forward. Ms. Hirschkron stated that many of the floats are not connected with plates on the Salem Harbor side with Mr. Lang also noting that the walkways down to the docks are difficult to navigate. Ms. Hirschkron noted that both Village Street and Stramski's would require a lot of updates if a lift was to be placed there and that all options should be weighed to determine if this would be a cost-effective project that would be frequently utilized by the community. Ms. Cuffe noted that Mr. Ramos, prior MDC member, was unable to access the State Street lift as it was too low, requiring the need for it to be elevated in the future to accommodate all wheelchair types.
- Sidewalks - Ms. LaLonde reports that it continues to be quite difficult to navigate sidewalks in a wheelchair.



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- Sports Fields - Mr. Lang expressed continued concern about the accessibility to public sports fields, despite the large budget allocated to sports in the town. Ms. Farrell will inquire to the school district about a senior student volunteer opportunity to work on some of the projects discussed at today's meeting.
- Crocker Park - Accessibility is difficult because of the broken tar, creating an uneven path.
- Increase visibility of accessibility around town - Advertise what accessibility the town has such as the State Street boating lift and the handicap parking spot available at Crocker Park. The Commission will advertise in the local newspapers, on Facebook, and to the local yacht clubs (Ms. Blaisdell, Ms. Hirschcron, and Ms. Marino will follow through with this).
- Bathroom near Harbormaster - Door is not accessible because of the outward swing.
- Lighthouse Park Bathroom - Not an accessible bathroom. Cleanliness, and bathroom supplies are also an issue.
- Sign on the door at the ramp for Village Plaza - Ms. Blaisdell will re-submit the letter to the town asking for Handicap signage.

Commission was in agreement that Ms. Blaisdell will go before the Parks and Rec Department regarding the following:

- o If a bathroom is closed and there is a Port-a-Potty in its place, it must be handicap accessible
- o Crocker Park accessibility related to its cracked pavement
- o Salem Harbor dock accessibility
- o General bathroom accessibility throughout the town (Crocker Park, Lighthouse Park, Stramski's, Harbormaster/State Street).

3. Magic Hat Thrift Shop Accessibility. Ms. Blaisdell spoke with Ms. Maryanne Dunn, who has sent two emails to the principal at the Veteran's Memorial School, as well as Todd Bloodgood, Facility Director. No response has been received regarding permission to create increased accessibility to the thrift shop via a curb cut. If permission is not granted, a sign will be placed outside of the shop with its phone number, so a person requiring use of a different access point may call for the door to be opened. Ms. Farrell will speak with Mr. Bloodgood about this matter.

4. Harbor Plan. Ms. Blaisdell reported that the Harbor Plan is on its second to last phase. Currently, an updated survey is on the town website. Ms. Marino will promote the survey by advertising it on the Commission's Facebook page.

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The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 12th, 2023

Respectfully submitted,  
Samantha Marino, Secretary and Commission Member

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