

**Harvard Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes 11/15/23**

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 857 3881 5728 Passcode: 619572

Called to Order at 8:02pm by Davida Bagatelle

Present: Davida Bagatelle, Toni Spacciapoli, Laura Sullivan, Charles Oliver

Approval of July 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Old Business

- Report from the Select Board liaison, Charles Oliver.
 - The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is reviewing ADA improvements for Town Beach. There is money to fund these improvements. Transition Plan recommendations will be undertaken. If Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) grant money is not available, then CPC will fund the cost. CPC list of projects will be presented and voted on at Town Meeting. Charles Oliver indicated that other ADA improvements can be requested through CPC. Plans to address the recommendations from the Self-Evaluation plan pertaining to the schools are being formulated, but the Select Board has not received any information regarding the status of the corrective actions, especially for Hildreth Elementary School.
 - Charles Oliver will forward a letter to Tim Bragan to remind him of our request for a meeting to discuss plans to implement recommendations from ADA Transition and Self-evaluation Plan. The Commission would like to propose that the Town develop a plan to track completion of ADA Transition and Self-evaluation Plan recommendations with a timeline. Davida Bagatelle referred to the information presented in a webinar regarding the manner in which some towns in the Commonwealth have implemented their ADA Transition and Self-Evaluation Plans. Charles Oliver believes that CPC may be the best funding source for the Commission's projects and needs.
- Status on the Massachusetts Office on Disability's grant application completed by Parks and Recreation Commission: The proposal was submitted and a decision will be made in December/early January. Davida Bagatelle spoke with Bob O'Shea and introduced him to an architect in town, Wendy McGan. She provided Bob O'Shea with valuable recommendations to improve the Parks and Recreation MoD grant proposal.
- Recruitment: An individual has submitted an application to the Town, but it has not come before the Select Board.

New Business

- Inquiries to the Commission on Disabilities:
 - A resident of Devens inquired about serving as a member of the Commission.
 - An individual who lives in a rental unit in Town contacted the Council on Aging, who referred that person to the Commission. This person requested support, as a tenant, regarding their needs based on their disability. Davida investigated the concern and provided the individual with the information to resolve the problem. The outcome was positive for the tenant. A letter of appreciation was sent to the Commission.
 - Patrick Harrigan, from school building maintenance, contacted Davida Bagatelle concerning adjustments/corrections outlined in the Self-Evaluation Plan. she worked with him to resolve corrections in the Plan and advised to contact the

consultants, who completed the Town's ADA Transition and Self-Evaluation Plan if he had any additional questions.

- Other: With regard to the new transportation to Littleton MBTA commuter site, Davida inquired if the bus is handicap accessible. Likewise, waiting for the bus in the center of Town, given the problems with the width of the sidewalks, does this provide a barrier to individuals using this service who are disabled.

Next Tentative Meeting Date: 12/20/23 at 4:00 PM
ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn at 8:47 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Toni Spacciapoli, Commission Secretary