



Merrimac Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Meeting Date: April 7, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Remote Meeting via global.gotomeeting.com

Members Present:

Christopher Gaudet, Chairman
Robert Hart, Vice Chairman
John Joseph Murphy, Treasurer
Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary
Ann Marie Murphy, Member
Anne Brown, Member
Margaret Sullivan, Member

Members not Present:

Charlotte Eileen Stepanian, Member
Bob Sinibaldi, Member/ADA Compliance Officer
Jeffrey MacLeod, Alternate

Also Present:

Brienne Walsh, Merrimac Senior Center Director
Ana Julian, Institute for Human Centered Design
David West, Institute for Human Centered Design

Agenda Item No: 1

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Robert Hart made a motion to accept the agenda for the April 7, 2021 meeting.

Jack Murphy seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The agenda was accepted.

Agenda Item No: 2

Approve Minutes from March 3, 2021 Meeting

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes.

Robert Hart made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 3, 2021 meeting.

Jack Murphy seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The minutes from the March 3, 2021 meeting are accepted.

Agenda Item No: 3

6:30 p.m. appointment with Institute for Human Center ed Design

Institute for Human Centered Design members shared that the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan started Monday April 5, 2021 with the Police Station and Town Hall. An issue was noted right away with the lip of the ramp on the side of Town Hall. The curb design at the base of the ramp is unusual and there may be an issue with the space. Sixteen inches of clearance is needed. The ramp is for everyone to access and not just employees so it needs to be up to code. Also, in Town Hall, the Auditorium has no assistive listening devices. The ADA Plan will focus on existing conditions and make recommendations.

Agenda Item No: 4

Apply for \$350,000 grant for generator located at Sweetsir School

COD considered Communities Project Funding Grant and Seth Moulton Community Project Funding Appropriations Account Information and Requirements. COD in conjunction with Fire Chief Larry Fisher applied for a grant for a generator for the Sweetsir School. Sweetsir School was selected because the Donaghue School is too close to the highway. With a generator, the Sweetsir School can be used as a shelter in case of emergency.

Agenda Item No: 5

45,000 request for FY22 Budget for DPW to be used for sidewalks up date

Christopher Gaudet approached the Finance Committee to request funding from the DPW for sidewalks. The request was denied.

Agenda Item No: 6

Shared Streets Grant Update

COD will receive \$30,000 in grant funding as part of the Shared Streets Grant. The project must be completed by the end of May, 2021. The DPW can complete the project and accepted the deadline at the Selectmen's Meeting on April 5, 2021. The money can be used for curb cuts to be installed at the intersection of Church Street on Prospect, Pine, Abbot, and Maple Streets. Currently there is construction between Abbott and Nichols Street. COD will ask to have the sidewalk installed there.

Robert Hart made a motion to accept money from Shared Streets Grant for DPW to use for curb cuts on Church Street to be completed by May 31, 2021.

Kathleen Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

Agenda Item No: 7

William Joyce at MAAB regarding plans for snow removal and sidewalk improvements

An email was sent to the Merrimac Board of Selectmen on 3/17/2020 with a complaint regarding snow removal. This complaint triggered an investigation by Massachusetts Architectural Access board (MAAB) and an informal notice to the town to resolve the issue. The ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan will be a guide to the town to

address non-compliant sidewalks. Christopher Gaudet will inquire to find out what the DPW plans to do to remove snow from sidewalks before we send a letter to the state. COD will give DPW time to plan. A draft will be developed and reviewed to send to the BOS. If a letter is sent to the state, the town may have to pay fines. MAAB will want a copy of the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. Bottom line: snow removal needs to be addressed.

Agenda Item No: 8

Parking on Sidewalks Information

COD considered information to be shared regarding ADA with Chief Shears:

Information from Northeast ADA website

<https://northeastada.org/resource/ada-overview>

The ADA, or the Americans with Disabilities Act, is the basis of many laws and rules that protect the civil rights of Americans who have some sort of disability. The ADA was passed in 1990 with strong support in the US Congress from both parties.

The aim of the ADA is to include people with disabilities in their communities and in society at large, ensuring that they can access and use the features of their communities and the nation as a whole. Examples of these features include, in no particular order, education and employment, medical offices and hospitals, stores and theaters, and libraries and government offices. They also include transportation, telephones, and Internet-related technologies.

The ADA has five sections, which are called titles. Each title has details about a specific topic. These topics cover rules that must be followed by employers, by state and local governments, by businesses, and by certain telecommunications firms. The fifth title has miscellaneous rules, including protection for people who try to exercise their rights under the ADA.

The ADA requires every path of travel in or around a facility, including streets, sidewalks, and curb ramps, to be accessible. This means sidewalks cannot be blocked by objects such as vehicles.

Robert Hart made a motion to share the information with Chief Shears. Kathleen Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

Agenda Item No: 9

Town Hall Ramp Thank You Cards

Christopher Gaudet delivered Thank You cards to the Highway Department, Steve Merritt, and Bob Sinibaldi for building the Town Hall Ramp.

Agenda Item No: 10

Adjourn

Next Meeting: May 5, 2021 at 6:30 REMOTELY on GoTo Meeting.

Robert Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jack Murphy seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

Institute for Human Centered Design ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Overview
+ Priority on Program Access
Information from Northeast ADA Website
Seth Moulton Community Project Funding Appropriations Account Information and Requirements
MAAB emails

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature: