



Merrimac Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Meeting Date: June 1, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Merrimac Senior Center 100 East Main Street, Merrimac, MA

Members Present:

Christopher Gaudet, Chairman
Robert Hart, Vice Chairman
Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary
Margaret Sullivan, Member
Brienne Walsh, Member

Members not Present:

John Joseph Murphy, Treasurer
Ann Marie Murphy, Member
Charlotte Eileen Stepanian, Member
Bob Sinibaldi, Member/ADA Compliance Officer
Anne Brown, Alternate

Also Present: Mary Ann Glennon, Member and Lucy Abisalih, Vice Chair from
Merrimac Open Space Committee

Agenda Item No: I

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Agenda Item No: II

Approve Agenda

Robert Hart made a motion to accept the agenda for the June 1, 2022 meeting.

Brienne Walsh seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The agenda was accepted.

Agenda Item No: III

Approve Minutes from May 4, 2022 Meeting

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes. Brienne Walsh made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 4, 2022 meeting. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The minutes from the May 4, 2022 meeting are accepted.

Agenda Item No: IV

Old Business

1. Shared Streets Grant for Church Street Improvements

Work on the sidewalks started today and good progress is being made. Invoices are due at the end of June. Since the COD will not meet again until July, Kathleen Sullivan made a motion for the Chairman of the COD to approve payment of \$107,202.50. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

2. \$45,000 Earmark Request for ADA Improvements at Sweetsir and Donaghue Schools sent to Representative Mirra and Senator Dizoglio

Christopher Gaudet received an email today that the \$45,000 request was approved.

3. Draft Copy Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policies, Procedures, and Practices

The draft of the ADA Policies, Procedures, and Practices was approved by the COD with one change: 14 days instead of 15 days will be the timetable for responses to complaints.

The document will be sent to Carol McLeod who will send it to KP Law for review.

Brienne Walsh made a motion to approve the draft. Margaret Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

4. Handicap parking for Old Home Days

To date there has been no response from the Old Home Days Committee regarding the parking situation at Donaghue School for Old Home Days. Brienne Walsh will reach out to Selectman Ben Beaulieu for an update.

5. Light Department ADA Items

The handle was installed on the payment box. The Light Department is still working on other items.

Agenda Items No: V

- 1. 6:30 p.m. appointment with Open Space Committee to discuss projects in town.**
Mary Ann Glennon, Member, and Lucy Abisalih, Vice Chair from Merrimac Open Space Committee shared that the Open Space Committee is eager to increase access to recreational spaces such as parks and trails. Currently the Open Space Committee is open to hearing about ways to make changes to open spaces and are happy to work with the COD to get grants to improve access. Carriage Town Park (aka Emery Field) is an open space that might be an option for a park with raised garden beds and other accessible activities. There is currently no water source at the field so this could be an issue. The DPW currently manages the field. COD members explained that there are specific ADA requirements for raised beds, picnic tables, and pathways. Members discussed McLaren Trail and ways to connect downtown to some sort of trail. Christopher Gaudet will share the ADA transition plan with the members of the Open Space Committee. The COD and OSC look forward to working together>
- 2. Proposed New Light Department Bill**
COD members looked at the new bill format and then decided to table the discussion until all members can give input. COD members reported that the Light Department website may not be ADA compliant. Christopher Gaudet will follow up with the Light Department.
- 3. Deaf Inc. Information Sheet (Update from Brienne Assisted Listening Devices)**
New technology will be explored with Cable Access to provide FM signals to allow accessibility at public meetings. Brienne Walsh will explore more thoroughly for the next COD meeting.

Agenda Item No: VI

Open Discussion

Margaret Sullivan briefly discussed the CODA Zoom call update. Topics included Variance Issues and Accessibility.

Agenda Item No: VII

Adjourn

Next Meeting: July 13, 2022 at the Merrimac Senior Center 100 East Main Street, Merrimac, MA at 6:30 p.m. Brienne Walsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

Sample Merrimac Light Department Bills

DEAF Inc. brochure

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature: