



Merrimac Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Meeting Date: October 5, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Hybrid: Merrimac Senior Center, 86 West Main Street, Merrimac, MA and Zoom

Members Present:

Christopher Gaudet, Chairman
Robert Hart, Vice Chairman
Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary (remotely)
Charlotte Eileen Stepanian, Member
Bob Sinibaldi, Member/ADA Compliance Officer
Brienne Walsh, Member

Members not Present:

Ann Marie Murphy, Member
Anne Brown, Alternate
Margaret Sullivan, Member

Also Present: Jeremiah Murphy (remote)

Benjamin Beaulieu (remote)

Agenda Item No: I

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Agenda Item No: II

Approve Agenda

Robert Hart made a motion to accept the agenda for the October 5, 2022 meeting.

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

Agenda Item No: III

Approve Minutes from September 7, 2022 Meeting

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes.

Brienne Walsh made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 7, 2022 meeting.

Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The minutes from the September 7, 2022 meeting are accepted.

Agenda Item No: IV

Old Business

- 1. \$45,000 Earmark Request for ADA Improvements at Sweetsir and Donaghue Schools**

Currently COD is waiting for the contract to send to the Board of Selectmen.

- 2. Draft Copy Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policies, Procedures, and Practices**

COD will wait to approve once a program is in place for hearing accommodations.

- 3. Light Department ADA Items**

No updates

- 4. Deaf Inc. Information Sheet (Update from Brienne Assisted Listening Devices)**

North East Rehabilitation had information regarding mobile listening devices that fit in a pocket. Devices cost \$150.00 and are available at Best Buy. COD will table this agenda item until more information is obtained.

- 5. MOD Grant**

\$45,000 for Church Street sidewalks. COD is waiting for an update.

Agenda Items: No. V

- 1. John (Jack) Murphy resignation**

COD received a letter of resignation from Jack Murphy. Robert Hart made a motion to accept the resignation. Eileen Stepanian seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. Thank you Jack for your years of service!

- 2. Portable Ramp at Sweetsir School and Playground Discussion (Kathleen Sullivan)**

Portable ramp for a child at Sweeter with a wheelchair was delivered by Chris Gaudet. THANK YOU! Robert Sinibaldi may be able to make a permanent ramp out by the door to the playground. Playground was discussed. It will be a very big project and will need to include fundraising.

3. Question on ADA Coordinator Serving on COD (Margaret Sullivan)

COD wondered if having the ADA coordinator serving on the COD was a conflict of interest. Email was shared from MOD that it is fine as long as ADA Coordinator does not hold a COD office.

4. FY 2024 Sidewalk Budget Request

It is time to think about budget requests for the next fiscal year. Robert Hart made a motion to request \$45,000 for the COD. Brienne Walsh seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

5. Proposed 40B The Flats

Letter from COD to the Merrimac Zoning Board of Appeals was shared. The letter outlined nine items that need to be addressed to ensure the Flats at Merrimac Square project is ADA compliant.

6. John Guilfoil article on the COD

Article is in the process of being requested.

Agenda Item No: VI

Open Discussion

Robert Sinibaldi will look into addressing issues with Church Street sidewalks.

Robert Sinibaldi will inform COD when variances are requested.

COD members discussed the possibility of reaching out to banks for donations to the gift account for use purchasing assisted listening devices and other ADA related materials. COD decided to wait to ask for donations until fundraising starts for the playground.

Agenda Item No: VII

Adjourn

Next Meeting: November 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting at Merrimac Senior Center, 86 West Main Street, Merrimac, MA and via Zoom

Robert Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brienne Walsh seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

COD September 2022 Meeting Minutes

October 2022 Meeting Agenda

Deaf Inc. Senior IL Information

John (Jack) Murphy Resignation Letter

Email Response from MOD regarding ADA Coordinator

40B Project Information

Town of Merrimac Employee Reasonable Request Form

Town of Merrimac Resident ADA Reasonable Accommodation Request Form

Short Form ADA Policies 8/23/2022

Town of Merrimac ADA Grievance Form

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature: