



## Merrimac Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

# TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Meeting Date: December 7, 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  
Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary  
Charlotte Eileen Stepanian, Member  
Bob Sinibaldi, Member/ADA Compliance Officer  
Margaret Sullivan, Member (Virtual)

### Members not Present:

Robert Hart, Vice Chairman  
Ann Marie Murphy, Member  
Brienne Walsh, Member

### Also Present:

Christopher Manni, Member, Merrimac Board of Selectman

### **Agenda Item No: I**

#### **Call to Order**

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

### **Agenda Item No: II**

## **Approve Agenda**

Robert Sinibaldi made a motion to accept the agenda for the December 7, 2022 meeting. Eileen Stepanian seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The agenda was accepted.

## **Agenda Item No: III**

### **Approve Minutes from November 9, 2022 Meeting**

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes. Robert Sinibaldi made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 9, 2022 meeting. Eileen Stepanian seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The minutes from the November 9, 2022 meeting are accepted.

## **Agenda Item No: IV**

### **Old Business**

- 1.
2. **\$45,000 Earmark Request for ADA Improvements at Sweetsir and Donaghue School Update**

COD members conducted a site visit with the PRSD electrician Kenneth Nadeau. Nine push button power door openers will be installed at the Sweetsir and Donaghue Schools. The cost will be \$20,000 plus the installation fee. If there are additional funds after the installation, money will be used to make the Sweetsir bathroom more ADA compliant.

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

Merrimac Board of Selectmen approved the ADA document with the following addition: “The Town of Merrimac will do their best but cannot guarantee reasonable accommodations”. COD will compile resources available for accommodations including a backup service for interpreters.

4. **John Guilfoil article on the COD**

Article is on hold until after the holidays.

5. **MOD Grant**

MOD will notify COD this month if the \$45,000 grant for sidewalks is approved.

6. **Follow up with Department Heads on ADA transition plan progress**

Response from departments was positive. All departments are working to comply with no cost items from the ADA plan.

## **Agenda Items: No. V**

### **1. Cemetery response to ADA transition plan update**

Email from Cemetery Trustees was considered. Access to the water spigots should be an easy fix. DPW may be able to assist. The statement that the building is not a public building is of concern because meetings are held there. The DPW director pointed out that the sidewalks are not town-owned but are state-owned. COD will invite trustees to the next COD meeting to discuss issues.

## **Agenda Item No: VI** **Open Discussion**

Work on the new baseball field has begun. Robert Sinibaldi assured the COD that there will be accessible pathways to all the benches. The sidewalk on Locust Street is not on the list to be updated. Bathroom updates will be explored. The two inch lip may be able to be eliminated with a hot top ramp by the DPW. Door handles will also need to be changed.

Side door of Town Hall will be an employee only entrance due to security concerns. Residents can use the doorbell to access the entrance.

The Gallant Building owner has installed a ramp that is not up to code. There is no platform. Currently the building is not in use but it will need a platform if it is a publicly used building.

## **Agenda Item No: VII** **Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** February 1, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Hybrid: Merrimac Senior Center, 86 West Main Street, Merrimac, MA and Zoom  
Kathleen Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eileen Stepanian seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

CODA October 2022 Draft Meeting Minutes  
COD meeting agenda November 2022  
ADA Transition Plans for Locust Grove Cemetery, Church Street Cemetery and Veterans' Memorial,  
Cemetery Response to ADA Transition Plan  
Photographs of Locust Cemetery Water, Locust Cemetery Flagpole, Church Street Cemetery Water.  
Cemetery Meeting Posting

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature: