



Town Clerk Date/Time Stamp

Merrimac Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Meeting Date: September 6, 2023

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
Ann Marie Murphy, Member
Margaret Sullivan, Member
Brienne Walsh, Member

Members not Present:

Bob Sinibaldi, Member/ADA Compliance Officer

Also Present:

Kemelin Domenech, Mass. Rehab. Commission
Irina Gorzynski, Selectwoman
Roni Bergman, Merrimac Resident
Kristen Bergman, Merrimac Resident

Agenda Item No: I

Call to Order

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

Agenda Item No: II

Approve Agenda

Brienne Walsh made a motion to accept the agenda for the September 6, 2023 meeting. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The agenda was accepted.

Agenda Item No: III

Approve Minutes from May 3, 2023 Meeting

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes. Chris Gaudet suggested a correction of Item 3: "\$36,037 is needed to complete the sidewalks along Church Street in front of the Sweetsir School. After the Sweetsir project is completed, 2,963 is left" Robert Hart made a motion to accept the EDITED minutes from the June 7, 2023 meeting. Brienne Walsh seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The minutes from the June 7, 2023 meeting are accepted.

Agenda Item No: IV

Old Business

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

The \$45,000 earmark for ADA improvements has been spent on signs and power door openers at both schools.

2. MOD Sidewalk Grant Update

MOD Sidewalk Grant funds were spent on curb cuts and sidewalks on Church Street. Church Street sidewalks are now ADA compliant and accessible. With ADA compliance, they are able to be cleared of snow this winter. The Town of Merrimac will be informed of the need for snow removal on ADA compliant sidewalks. Margaret Sullivan made a motion to notify the town via email of the new expectation. Brienne Walsh seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

3. 5 East Main Street Ramp

Owner is working with a contractor to tear down the noncompliant ramp and replace it with an ADA compliant ramp. Building is now occupied. Irina Gorzynski will notify the Select Board regarding the issues.

Agenda Item No: V

Agenda Items

1. Reorganization of the Commission on Disabilities

Margaret Sullivan nominated Christopher Gaudet to continue as the Chairman of the COD. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

Christopher Gaudet nominated Kathleen Sullivan to continue as the Secretary for the COD. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

Margaret Sullivan nominated Robert Hart to continue as the Vice Chairman of the COD. Brienne Walsh seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

2. Proposed Tennis Court Improvements at the Donaghue School

COD members noted that there was no communication with the COD regarding the town tennis court updates prior to the Select Board meeting. In the future COD needs to be involved in projects so that ADA compliance is assured. Entrances to the tennis courts need to be ADA compliant.

3. New Curb Cut Exceeds 2% slope at Donaghue School

The new ramp at the Donaghue School is not ADA compliant because the slope is not correct. Margaret Sullivan made a motion to have the ramp replaced so that it is ADA compliant. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

4. New curb cut located corner of East Main Street and Crossing Way exceeds 2% cross slope

The curb cut is too steep and is not ADA compliant. Margaret Sullivan made a motion to reach out to Robert Sinibaldi to contact the contractor to fix non-compliant curb cut. Brienne Walsh seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

5. Port Sign Invoices

Brienne Walsh made a motion to pay invoices for the new signs at the schools. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

6. \$45,000 Earmark request to update sidewalks between Sweetsir and Donaghue Schools

During a conversation with Christopher Gaudet with Representative Dawne Shand, she explained that the Earmark request was rejected because town sidewalk budget money should be used for sidewalks.

7. Advocate for DPW \$45,000 for sidewalk in next year's budget

COD will advocate for money for sidewalk replacement to be added to the budget next year. Robert Hart made a motion to advocate for \$45,000 for the DPW for sidewalks. Brienne Walsh seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

8. PRS Invoice for COD laptop cloud backup

Brienne Walsh made a motion to pay the invoice for the COD laptop cloud backup. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

9. Apply for grant to review ADA compliance on town websites, ICHD proposal attached.

The new Town Website is complete. Two grants are available to cover the \$12,440 cost of having the Institute for Human Design complete an in depth examination of the site for ADA compliance. Margaret Sullivan made a motion to apply for a grant of \$12,440 to allow IHD to audit the town websites for ADA compliance. Brienne Walsh seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

Agenda Item No: VI

Open Discussion

Old Home Days was a success. The ADA accessible Parking spaces were all utilized and the signs in front of the parking lot were very helpful.

Irina Gorzynski shared with the COD that a new boat ramp is being installed at Lake Attitash by the Lake Attitash Association.

Community members would like to be able to see and hear meetings without a cable station. The new website has a cable access button that can be utilized to watch all town meetings.

Agenda Item No: VII

Adjourn

Next Meeting: October 4, 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. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

COD June 2023 Meeting Minutes

COD meeting agenda September, 2023

Port Sign invoices

Hertz Furniture invoice

Steve Merritt invoices

EJ Paving invoices

Massachusetts Architectural Access Board guidance on curb cuts and slope

prs group inc invoice

Town of Merrimac web site review proposed budget from IHCD

email from Dawne Shand

Pictures of noncompliant ramps

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature: