



Town Clerk Date/Time Stamp

Merrimac Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Meeting Date: February 7, 2024 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 (remote)
Robert Sinibaldi, Member/ADA Compliance Officer (remote)

Members not Present:

Margaret Sullivan, Member
Brienne Walsh, Member

Also Present:

Bridget Batcheller, Senior Center Outreach Coordinator
Irina Gorzynski, Select Board Member

Agenda Item No: I

Call to Order

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

Agenda Item No: II

Approve Agenda

Kathleen Sullivan made a motion to accept the agenda for the February 7, 2024 meeting. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The agenda was accepted.

Agenda Item No: III

Approve Minutes from December 6, 2023 Meeting

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes. Robert Hart made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 6, 2023 meeting. Kathleen Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The minutes were accepted.

Agenda Item No: IV

Old Business

1. Post Office regarding Push Button Power Door Openers

Christopher Gaudet met with State Representative Dawne Shande, Congressman Seth Moulton, and Senator Edward Markey regarding the COD request for the Merrimac Post Office to add push button power door openers. The officials recommended that the COD file a request from the United States Access Board and they will reach out to support the request. Christopher Gaudet made a motion to file the request. Robert Sinibaldi seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

2. 5 East Main Street regarding newly built non-compliant ramp.

Robert Sinibaldi has no updates. COD can send a letter asking for an update. Christopher Gaudet talked to the owner about tearing out the oncompliant ramp and replacing it. COD will reach out again to have the owner get plans for the ramp to Robert Sinibaldi so a building permit can be issued.

Agenda Item No: V

Agenda Items

1. PRS \$99.50 Invoice for IDrive computer backup

Invoice was received for the backup program for the COD laptop. Robert Hart made a motion to pay the invoice. Robert Sinibaldi seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

2. Hertz Furniture Invoice

Sweetsir School received two new inclusive cafeteria tables. COD will pay the invoices.

3. Merrimac resident questioning the number of handicap spaces at Pentucket School

The new Middle/High School building is not in Merrimac's jurisdiction but COD got involved because a Merrimac citizen reached out to the COD with concerns. Christopher Gaudet reached out to Jonathan Seymour and Justin Bartholomew for the blueprints of the new high school building. There are 200 parking spaces and 6 handicapped spaces. Christopher Gaudet asked about the possibility of adding more handicapped parking spaces. All 6 spaces were full at the time Christopher visited. Administration will consider adding more spaces. Christopher Gaudet also noted that the outside picnic tables were not ADA compliant. Also, the exit signs have no international symbols and exits need to be marked as handicap accessible. COD will share MAAB information. Administration will get back to Christopher Gaudet.

4. New Playground for Sweetsir School

Sweetsir School needs a new playground. COD will be involved to ensure accessibility and ADA compliance. Planning is in the very early stages.

5. Post Office Snow in handicap parking space

Christopher Gaudet reached out to staff at the Post Office because there was snow in the handicapped parking space. It was removed within two hours and the contractor now knows not to put snow into the handicapped space.

6. Email from Merrimac resident thanking the Select Board for the sidewalk improvements on Church street.

The Select Board received a letter thanking them for new sidewalks and for the clearing of the sidewalks.

7. Annual Report

The COD annual report is due at the beginning of March. Christopher Gaudet will compile the report for review and submission.

Agenda Item No: VI

Open Discussion

MOD grant was received for the amount of \$12,440 to pay to make the Merrimac website accessible.

Currently the COD has \$300 in the gift account. \$80 is needed for email subscription.

Bridget Batcheller shared that she is the Outreach Coordinator for the Merrimac Senior Center. She is looking into applying for AARP Community Challenge Grant.

Bridget is interested in partnering with the COD to apply for grants that will help the town update sidewalks. She also mentioned possible Micro Grants for improving opportunities to walk and bike in Merrimac. Projects funded by the grants would need to be completed by December 2024. Applications are due in March and then notifications occur in May. COD supports the idea of applying for grants.

The Boat Ramp replacement project began on January 8, 2024. The Conservation Commission and the state are in charge of the project and Robert Sinibaldi does not have contact information for overseers of the project. Christopher Gaudet will look into the project to be sure the new ramp is ADA compliant.

Agenda Item No: VII

Adjourn

Next Meeting: March 6, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Hybrid: Merrimac Senior Center, 86 West Main Street, Merrimac, MA and Zoom

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

COD December 2023 Meeting Minutes
COD meeting agenda February 2024
Invoice from PRSGroupINC
Thank you note from Merrimac Resident
Photograph of snow in Post Office handicap parking space

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature: