



Town Clerk Date/Time Stamp

## Merrimac Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

# TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Meeting Date: May 1, 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  
Bob Sinibaldi, Member/ADA Compliance Officer (remote)  
Margaret Sullivan, Member  
Brienne Walsh, Member

### Members not Present:

Bridget Batcheller, Alternate  
Ann Marie Murphy, Member

### Also Present:

Irina Gorzynski, Select Board Member

### **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 May 1, 2024 meeting. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The agenda was accepted.

### **Agenda Item No: III**

#### **Approve Minutes from, 2024 M April 3, 2024 Meeting**

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes from the April 3, 2024 meeting. Robert Hart made a motion to approve the minutes. Margaret Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

### **Agenda Item No: IV**

#### **Old Business**

#### **1. Section 504 Complaint Filed with US Access Board regarding Post Office Doors**

COD is still waiting to hear about the complaint that was filed. See Agenda item #4 for further information.

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

Robert Sinibaldi talked to the owner about a month ago and the owner said he is looking for a contractor to rip out the ramp.

#### **3. Institute for Human Design signed proposal for ADA website review**

Website is still under construction.

#### **4. MOD Grant**

The MOD Grant window opened today. Dawn Shand (State Representative) and Barbara L'Italein (Executive Director and CEO, Disability Law Center) suggested that the COD apply for the grant to be used for push button power door openers for the Post Office. They are not confident that any action will come from the 504 complaint. MOD Grant cannot be used to fund crosswalk lights. Shared Streets Grant may cover crosswalk lights. Robert Sinibaldi shared that the Main and Union Street intersection really needs crosswalk lights. He also noted that there are still two doors in town hall that need push button power door openers. Brienne Walsh made a motion to apply for two MOD grants: one grant that requests funding for two push button power door openers at the Merrimac Post Office and a second grant that requests funding for two push button power door openers at the

Merrimac Post Office AND funding for two push button power door openers for Merrimac Town Hall. Margaret Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

**5. AARP Grant for Sidewalks (Bridget Batcheller)**

COD is still waiting to hear back from AARP.

**6. 12 School Street handicap parking spaces need signs**

Christopher Gaudet left a message for the owner and has not heard back from them yet.

**7. Dunkin Donuts handicap parking spaces need signs**

Christopher Gaudet left a message for the owner and has not heard back from them yet. Robert Hart measured the handicapped parking space and it is compliant. Dunkin just needs to add signs.

**Agenda Item No: V**

**Agenda Items**

**1. COD Members for FY25**

Brienne Walsh made a motion to have membership for COD remain at seven members and one alternate. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

**2. Quarterly Report**

Robert Hart made a motion to submit the quarterly report for COD. Brienne Walsh seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

**3. Light Department Building Renovations**

The Light Department is making renovations and included Christopher Gaudet in the process. Christopher Gaudet met with the Light Department staff and shared the transition plan suggestions. The Light Department will add Push Button Power Door Openers and a 36 inch high service counter. The architect's plans will take the transition plan suggestions into consideration.

**Agenda Item No: VI**

**Open Discussion**

Cable Access has a Zoom account and TV the COD can use for meetings but that would mean moving meetings to Town Hall. The COD will continue to meet at the Merrimac Senior Center.

Town Meeting approved \$45,000 for the Highway Department budget for sidewalks.

The Senior Center needs Handicapped Parking signage. Robert Sinibaldi will look to see if there is money left in the special account and let Brienne Walsh know.

COD members discussed the importance of all town committees and town commissions being included in communication for all projects that are occurring in town. COD needs to be included to ensure accessibility and compliance.

Robert Sinibaldi discussed the money left in the budget that was not spent on clearing sidewalks of snow this past winter. There is approximately \$10,000 left because the sidewalks only needed to be cleared twice. Robert Sinibaldi suggested using that money towards the purchase of sidewalk snow removal equipment so that the town does not have to continue to contract out for snow removal. Christopher Gaudet made a motion to use the remainder of the \$15,000 for the sidewalk clearing to purchase snow removal equipment. The Highway Department will fund the balance of the cost of the snow removal equipment pending approval of Anne Jim, Town Accountant. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Margaret Sullivan opposed the motion, Robert Sinibaldi abstained from the vote. The remaining members accepted the motion. The motion passed.

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

Next Meeting: June 5, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Hybrid: Merrimac Senior Center, 86 West Main Street, Merrimac, MA and Zoom

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 7:19 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

COD April 2024 Meeting Minutes  
COD meeting agenda May 2024  
COD Quarterly REport  
Merrimac Light Department ADA Transition Plan

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature: