



Town Clerk Date/Time Stamp

Merrimac Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Meeting Date: June 5, 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
Margaret Sullivan, Member
Brienne Walsh, Member
Bridget Batcheller, Alternate (Remote)

Also Present:

Irina Gorzynski, Select Board Member
Jeremiah Murphy (Remote)

Not in Attendance:

Ann Marie Murphy, Member
Bob Sinibaldi, Member/ADA Compliance Officer

Agenda Item No: I

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item No: II

Approve Agenda

Brienne Walsh made a motion to accept the agenda for the June 5, 2024 meeting. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The agenda was accepted.

Agenda Item No: III

Approve Minutes from May 1, 2024 Meeting

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes from the May 1, 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

The owners agreed to install the push button power door openers and they were installed last Thursday.

Dawn Shand is interested in developing a newspaper article highlighting Merrimac's C.O.D. and the positive impact on improving accessibility and ADA compliance in the town, as evidenced by the resolution of the post office door openers.

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

Property owner reached out and is going over possible options to be ADA compliant. He will let COD know his plan soon.

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

The website review is still on schedule to be completed on time. Once the review is completed, it will be presented to the Merrimac Select Board. Margaret Sullivan made a motion to have Christopher Gaudet represent the COD to present findings to the Select Board and to authorize payment of the bill. Brienne Walsh seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

4. MOD Grant

Originally, the MOD grant request was going to be used for the post office push button power door openers or handicapped accessible picnic tables for Sweetsir School. After further consideration, COD members determined that curb cuts on Locust and Green Streets are a more pressing need. Kathleen Sullivan made a motion to apply for the MOD grant for new curb cuts on Green Street to begin to ensure an accessible emergency route from Donaghue School to Holy Redeemer

Church. Margaret Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion and a proposal estimate will be requested from Steve Merritt.

5. AARP Grant for Sidewalks (Bridget Batcheller)

Unfortunately, COD did not get the grant. COD can apply again.

6. 12 School Street handicap parking spaces need signs

No response from the owner yet. COD may consider filing a complaint.

7. Dunkin Donuts handicap parking spaces need signs

No response from the owner yet. COD may consider filing a complaint.

Agenda Item No: V

Agenda Items

1. 92,94,96 East Main Street Development

Christopher Gaudet got copies of the plan for the new development on the previous Skip's property. COD members have questions regarding the developer's plans regarding handicapped parking, sidewalk accessibility, accessible signage, adequate curb cuts, and handicapped accessible bathrooms. COD wants to be sure that the project is compliant with the 2010 ADA regulations. Christopher Gaudet will submit questions to the Merrimac Planning Board so they can check in with the developer. COD recommends universally designed parking spaces that are eight feet wide.

2. DPW Director Robert Sinibaldi request to use \$9,471.00 from ADA sidewalk improvement for snow equipment

COD already approved using the balance of the ADA sidewalk improvement funds in the Highway Department budget for snow removal equipment for the sidewalks. Annie Jim has approved using the ADA sidewalk improvement funds towards purchasing sidewalk snow removal equipment. The COD advocates for these funds for the highway department and we work together on how these funds are spent. Going forward, all members agreed that ADA improvement funds should not be utilized for snow and ice removal. DPW has the responsibility to remove snow and ice from sidewalks.

3. Donaghue Emergency route on Green Street is not ADA compliant

See above (will apply for MOD grant funds)

4. ADA webinar hosted by Cornell University regarding Title III public accommodations.

Members should review the webinar. MOD has training online regarding Massachusetts State ADA regulations that might also be of interest to members.

5. Old Home Days

COD will help the Old Home Days Committee facilitate handicapped parking for Old Home Days at the Donaghue School.

6. 99 Main Street Renovations

Robert Sinibaldi shared the application for the permit for renovations for a new salon at 99 Main Street. ADA upgrades were included in the application.

Agenda Item No: VI **Open Discussion**

Agenda Item No: VII **Adjourn**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 31, 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. Brienne Walsh seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

COD May 2024 Meeting Minutes
COD meeting agenda June 2024
Project Plans for Village Meadows
Title III of the ADA and Readily Achievable Barrier Removal Webinar from May 21, 2024 at Cornell University.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature: