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## Merrimac Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

# TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Meeting Date: June 3, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Remote Meeting via global.gotomeeting.com

### Members Present:

Christopher Gaudet, Chairman  
Robert Hart, Vice Chairman  
John Joseph Murphy, Treasurer  
Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary  
Ann Marie Murphy, Member  
Margaret Sullivan, Member  
Charlotte Eileen Stepanian, Member

### Members not Present:

Anne Brown, Member  
Bob Sinibaldi, Member/ADA Compliance Officer  
Jeffrey MacLeod, Member

### Agenda Item No: 1

#### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Margaret Sullivan made a motion to accept the agenda for the June 3, 2020 meeting. John Murphy seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The agenda was accepted.

### Agenda Item No: 2

#### **Approve Minutes March 4, 2020 Meeting**

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes. Margaret Sullivan made a motion to accept the minutes. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The minutes from the March 4, 2020 meeting are accepted.

**Agenda Item No: 3**

**Proposed DPW Snow Removal By-Laws**

The Snow Removal By-Laws have become the responsibility of the Merrimac Commission on Disabilities. Unfortunately, the Snow Removal By-Laws were not amended as the Commission on Disabilities recommended in the last meeting. According to the Massachusetts State Regulations, it is the town's responsibility to clear sidewalks. If the town is proposing to fine taxpayers, the proposed snow removal by-laws do not make sense. Residents should not have to pay both taxes and a fine. The proposed Snow Removal By-Laws are not fair for senior citizens or people with disabilities who cannot clear their sidewalks. The Commission on Disabilities proposed that the Snow Removal By-Law proposal should go no further. Ann Murphy made a motion that the Snow Removal By-Law proposal should go no further. Margaret Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted.

**Agenda Item No: 4**

**Sidewalks**

The Commission on Disabilities members reviewed that the town is responsible for cleaning snow off of the sidewalks. The Commission on Disabilities will begin to explore approaching town departments regarding sidewalk replacement plans. Money will need to be obtained through the town budget or through grants. This process will be ongoing.

**Agenda Item No: 5**

**ADA Transition Plan Grant**

A sample Draft of the town's ADA plan was shared with Commission on Disabilities members. A Best Practice grant is available to cover the cost of a comprehensive ADA Compliance Plan for the Town of Merrimac. The grant will cover the cost of developing an ADA plan for Merrimac. The grant would cover the \$39,000 needed to conduct the study and generate an ADA plan for Merrimac. The development of the ADA plan is needed and will assist in the process of procuring more grants to assist the town in becoming more ADA compliant. Ann Murphy made a motion to have Christopher Gaudet apply for a Best Practice Grant to cover the cost of writing an ADA transition plan. Charlotte Eileen Stepanian seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted. Members also unanimously agreed that in the future, if Christopher Gaudet is made aware of other grant applications, the Commission on Disabilities members can approve application for the grant via email.

**Agenda Item No: 6**  
**COA Van Grant**

The Merrimac Council on Aging needs Commission on Disabilities support to obtain a grant for a new van. The current van was purchased in 2008. The new van costs \$65,000. The state of Massachusetts will fund 80% of the purchase of the van if the grant is approved. North Shore Bank has donated \$3500, Haverhill Bank has donated \$2500, and the town will cover \$2500. Other local funding may be available. The Council on Aging needs Commission on Disabilities support to increase chances of getting grant money from the state. Eileen Stepanian made a motion to support the Merrimac Council on Aging request to apply for a grant for a new van. Jack Murphy seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted.

**Agenda Item No: 7**  
**Town Hall Power Door Update**

Christopher Gaudet update the Commission on Disabilities members on the installation of power door openers at Town Hall. To date, seven openers have been installed, three are wired and ready to be installed. Also, the Handicapped Parking lines and signs have been improved. Christopher Gaudet will approach the Selectmen to put up signs to inform the public that fines for parking in a handicapped parking space can be to up to \$250.00

**Agenda Item No: 8**  
**Town Hall Ramp Update**

Christopher Gaudet informed the Commission on Disabilities members the new ramp for Town Hall will cost between \$80,000 and \$90,000. He is waiting to hear if money earmarked for the ramp will be approved (\$50,000). \$4,600 is needed for design plans for the ramp at town hall. Christopher has asked for donations from local businesses and Brian Casella from Casella Waste Management announced they will be donating \$750 to the Commission on Disabilities. Members encouraged Christopher Gaudet to continue to reach out to businesses for donations toward the new ramp for Town Hall.

**Agenda Item No: 9**

**CODA Conference Call Update- Anne Brown**  
No update this month, no conference call, no action needed.

**Old Business:**

None

**Open Discussion**

Christopher Gaudet volunteered to be on the town COVID-19 committee to ensure accessibility is not overlooked and that all residents are able to participate in voting and town meeting. Commission on Disabilities members are encouraged to share concerns.

**Agenda Item No: 10**

**Adjourn**

Next Meeting: July 1, 2020 at 6:30 REMOTELY on GoTo Meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

E-Mails regarding Proposed Snow Removal By-Law  
Town of Merrimac ADA Transition Plan Draft

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on 7/1/2020:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature: