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Merrimac Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Meeting Date: August 5, 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
Jeffrey MacLeod, Alternate
Anne Brown, Member

Members not Present:

Bob Sinibaldi, Member/ADA Compliance Officer

Agenda Item No: 1

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:41 p.m.

Robert Hart made a motion to accept the agenda for the August 5, 2020 meeting. Charlotte Eileen Stepanian seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The agenda was accepted.

Agenda Item No: 2

Approve Minutes July 1, 2020 Meeting

Approve minutes from COD meeting on July 1, 2020 with the following changes: Under Agenda Item 6, change Merrimac Planning to Merrimack Valley Planning. Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes. Charlotte Eileen Stepanian made a motion to accept the amended minutes. Margaret Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The amended minutes from the July 1, 2020 meeting are accepted.

Agenda Item No: 3
ADA Transition Plan

ADA Transition Plan update was shared with stakeholders in the town of Merrimac. No changes or feedback was received or suggested. Christopher Gaudet will continue to put together Requests for Proposals and share with the legal team. The goal is for the ADA Transition Plan to begin being developed in the spring of 2021.

Agenda Item No: 4
COD Maximum Members

Currently, the Commission on Disabilities requires a minimum of five members and a maximum of thirteen members with a quorum of seven members. The Board of Selectmen would like to set the number of members at nine for this year with a quorum of five members. Jeffrey MacLeod is the tenth member and will serve as an alternate when another member is unable to attend. Robert Hart made a motion to accept that the Board of Selectmen that the Board of Selectmen will set the number of members for the Commission on Disabilities each year, that the number will be nine for this year with Jeffrey MacLeod as the alternate. Margaret Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted.

Agenda Item No: 5
Sidewalk Update

Bob Sinibaldi and Christopher Gaudet met with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation team members Daniel Flurry and Brian Loosian on July 14, 2020 to discuss possibility of state funding to replace the sidewalks on Route 110 from Haverhill to Amesbury, the sidewalks on the Broad Street and Locust Street Bridges, and the crosswalks outside of Nancy Ann Lane and the Senior Center. No motion needed. Conversations will continue.

Agenda Item No: 6
MOD Grant

The Massachusetts Office on Disability is opening grant opportunities. Christopher Gaudet reminded members that the Commission on Disabilities unsuccessfully applied previously to a shared state COVID grant to expand the sidewalk at Town Hall and to purchase an ADA compliant fence. There have been two applications for grants for a ramp at Town Hall which were rejected. The Commission members discussed applying for the grant for curb cuts because curb cuts can cost up to \$3500.00 each. Margaret Sullivan made a motion for

grants and Margaret Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

MGL C41 S56 Warrants for payment of bills allows committees, boards, and commissions to designate a single person or alternate to sign bills and payrolls. The Commission on Disabilities members authorize Christopher Gaudet to submit for warrants, approve bills for payment, and approve payroll on behalf of the Commission on Disabilities. Robert Hart would be the alternate signer if Christopher Gaudet is not available. John Murphy made a motion to authorize Christopher Gaudet and Robert Hart to handle the financial matters outlined above and Kathleen Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

Agenda Item No: 8
Adjourn

Next Meeting: August 5, 2020 at 6:30 REMOTELY on GoTo Meeting.

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 7:21 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

E-Mails regarding ADA Compliance Plan
Information from Courtney Breen
Ann Brown notes

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature:

Jeffrey MacLeod made a motion to move forward to authorize the Commission on Disabilities to accept funds, reach out to town departments, and procure Requests for Proposals for the ADA transition plan. Margaret Sullivan seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

Agenda Item No: 6
Sidewalks

Christopher Gaudet reached out to the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission to find out possible ways the town can improve the sidewalks in Merrimac so they are up to code. Christopher Gaudet was given information to contact Brian Fallon from Massachusetts Department of Transportation. The state owns the sidewalks on East Main Street, West Main Street, the Broad Street Bridge, and the Locust Street Bridge. Commission on Disabilities members discussed having Mr. Fallon and Mr. Sinibaldi attend the next Commission on Disabilities meeting to get information about the sidewalks.

Kathleen Sullivan made a motion to have Christopher Gaudet reach out to Brian Fallon and Robert Sinibaldi to invite them to our next meeting to explore how to work with the state to develop a process to get Merrimac sidewalks up to code. Jeffrey MacLeod seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

Agenda Item No: 7

CODA Conference Call Update- Anne Brown
See attached notes

Old Business:

none

Open Discussion

Christopher Gaudet mentioned that currently there is no sidewalk access between Rhythm Cafe and the center of town because Town Hall renovations have involved blocking the sidewalk in front of Town Hall. The cost of an alternate sidewalk route should have been included in the construction plan. The Commission on Disabilities members will monitor the situation since Town Hall is not currently open.

Commission on Disabilities applied for a \$95,000 grant to cover the cost of a new ramp for Merrimac Town Hall. The Town of Merrimac has unsuccessfully applied for similar grants three previous times. State Representative Lenny Mirra and State Senator Diana DiZoglio encouraged the Commission on Disabilities to submit the grant application because the new ramp will improve the ability for citizens to maintain social distancing when they enter and exit Town Hall. Robert Sinibaldi also applied for grant money to cover the costs of new sidewalks near the schools. Christopher Gaudet will continue to apply for grants on behalf of the Commission on Disabilities. Robert Hart made a motion to continue to apply for