



Town Clerk Date/Time Stamp

Merrimac Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Meeting Date: March 3, 2021

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
Charlotte Eileen Stepanian, Member
Margaret Sullivan, Member

Members not Present:

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

Also Present:

Brienne Walsh, Merrimac Senior Center Director
Eric Shears, Merrimac Police Chief

Agenda Item No: 1
Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Robert Hart made a motion to accept the agenda for the March 3, 2021 meeting.

Ann Murphy seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The agenda was accepted.

Agenda Item No: 2

Approve Minutes from January 6, 2021 Meeting

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes.

Jack Murphy made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 6, 2021 meeting. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The minutes from the January 6, 2021 meeting are accepted.

Agenda Item No: 3

Approve Minutes from February 3, 2021 Meeting

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes.

Jack Murphy made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 3, 2021 meeting. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The minutes from the February 3, 2021 meeting are accepted.

Agenda Item No: 4

6:30 Appointment with Police Chief Eric Shears to discuss parking on sidewalks

COD members discussed concerns with the parking on sidewalks in town. Members wonder how to keep sidewalks clear. Parking a vehicle of any sort on a sidewalk is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and of the town by-laws. Chief Shears explained that if the Police Department receives a complaint, they will investigate and ask the owner to move the vehicle. If there is no response to the request to move the vehicle, the police will issue a citation. Sometimes on old sidewalks, it is not clear to residents that they are parking on a sidewalk. The Police Department is happy to partner with the COD to enforce the regulations. COD will provide some educational information for police to share with town residents to increase awareness of ADA.

The COD also discussed with Chief Sears that the DPW is not able to get equipment on the sidewalks right now because they are in such poor shape. Snow removal is an issue that is ongoing in town and the Police Department is addressing the problem of plow contractors putting snow on public roads and sidewalks. Officers on duty will take note of sidewalk issues and COD members are welcome to notify police when they see issues.

Agenda Item No: 5

40B Project proposed on West Main Street

At the last Selectmen's meeting, a 188 unit development was proposed to be built near Kenoza Vending. Five of the units will be handicap accessible. COD members wonder if all the units are wheelchair accessible and to what extent. COD members will monitor the project to ensure they have plans for push button power door openers and other accessible features.

Agenda Item No: 6

Shared Streets Grant Update

Grant applicants are still waiting to hear if they qualify for Shared Streets Grant. Christopher Gaudet has a locus map from Stantec which will be shared with members. Hopefully, COD will hear about the grant by the end of March.

Agenda Item No: 7

45K request to finance committee for DPW to be used for sidewalks update

Christopher Gaudet attended a meeting last week to discuss the funding and will meet Thursday with the Capital Planning Board for approval.

Agenda Item No: 8

20K Earmark Update

COD is waiting for reimbursement to go back into the Cares Act Fund. Cares Act will not approve funding for curb cuts but can be used to fund Town Hall ramp and power door openers. Funds probably will not be released until the end of the year.

Agenda Item No: 9

Institute for Human Centered Design Contract Update

Contracts have been signed and reviewed. A kick off meeting with town department heads will be scheduled. They will want to share a presentation with COD and department heads of all departments that will be impacted.

Additional Discussion:

Brienne Walsh discussed the situation she encountered when there was a power outage recently. If the Council on Aging had a generator, the Senior Center could have been used as a shelter for people impacted by the power outage. COD will explore what is needed to set up an emergency shelter at the next meeting.

Agenda Item No: 10

Adjourn

Next Meeting: April 7, 2021 at 6:30 REMOTELY on GoTo Meeting.

Eillen Stepanian made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jack Murphy seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

Article V Sidewalks and Highways

Article XIV Violations of Town By-Laws

521 CMR: Architectural Access Board 521CMR 22.00and 521 CMR 2.0

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature:



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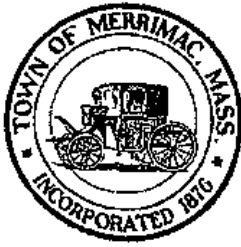
Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature:



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Anne Brown, Member
Jeffrey MacLeod, Alternate
Margaret Sullivan, Member

Agenda Item No: 1

Call to Order

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

Robert Hart made a motion to accept the agenda for the February 3, 2021 meeting. John Murphy seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The agenda was accepted.

Agenda Item No: 2

Approve Minutes from December 14, 2020 Meeting

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes. Eileen Stepanian made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 14, 2021 meeting. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The minutes from the December 14, 2020 meeting are accepted.

Agenda Item No: 3

Institute for Human Centered Design Contract Update

All paperwork was approved by counsel and is on the Board of Selectmen's Agenda for approval at their next meeting.

Agenda Item No: 4

MOD Grant Update

The COD grant application was denied.

Agenda Item No: 5

Shared Streets Grant Update

The Shared Streets Grant application was denied. There is another round of grant proposals due in March. If the grant is received, the money has to be spent by May 2021. The COD discussed the timelines involved. There may not be enough time for curb cuts. Robert Sinibaldi suggested that there could be time to complete zero grade curb cuts because granite will not need to be ordered.

Kathleen Sullivan made a motion to apply for a \$30,000 Shared Streets Grant for curb cuts near schools to be completed by the DPW. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

Agenda Item No: 6

Funds Needed for Town Hall Ramp

An amount of \$5,000 is needed to complete the Town Hall Ramp. The railings need to be painted and the Power Door Opener needs to be installed. Also, the issue of drainage needs to be addressed.

Robert Hart made a motion that if the COD receives expected earmarked funds, \$5,000 will go toward finishing the Town Hall Ramp and the remaining \$15,000 will be spent on curb cuts.

Eileen Stepanian seconded the motion.

Members unanimously accepted the motion.

Agenda Item No: 7

Town General By-Law Article V Parking on Sidewalks

Town General By-Laws were reviewed by COD members. People in Merrimac have been parking on the sidewalks in spite of the town by-laws because they do not have enough parking for their residences. Oftentimes mobile homes are parked on sidewalks and hoses and cords are run across the sidewalk. In one instance, a resident removed a town sidewalk and put a driveway in its place. Merrimac does have by-laws but they are not currently enforced. Parking vehicles on sidewalks is an ADA State and Federal violation. COD is working to get new sidewalks and want to be sure they will not be ruined. COD agreed to reach out and invite the Merrimac Chief of Police to participate in the next COD meeting to discuss the issue and to problem solve on how to get the public to stop parking on sidewalks.

Agenda Item No: 8

45K Earmark for Sidewalks

State Representative Lenny Mirra reached out asking if there are any requests from the COD for FY 22 and the COD asked for a \$45,000 earmark to be used toward ADA compliant curb cuts and sidewalks.

Robert Hart made a motion to accept the earmark. Eileen Stepanian seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion.

Agenda Item No: 9

Adjourn

Next Meeting: March 3, 2021 at 6:30 REMOTELY on GoTo Meeting.

Eileen Stepanian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Murphy seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

Article V: Sidewalks and Highways

Article XIV: Violations of Town By-Laws

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature: