

**BRAINTREE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**  
**Meeting Held Via Zoom**  
**Monday, January 6, 2025, 6:30 p.m.**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Crystal Evans, Treasurer  
Robin Torpey, Member  
Mary Russo, Member

**NOT PRESENT:** Scott Lamphere, Member

**ALSO PRESENT:** Marybeth McGrath, Director of ML & I  
Kristina Ziniti, ADA Coordinator

**Call to Order:**

Crystal Evans served as Acting Chairperson for this meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 6:44 p.m. by roll call vote: Crystal Evans-yes;  
Robin Torpey-yes; Mary Russo-yes

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of December 2, 2024 were reviewed.

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to approve the meeting minutes of December 2, 2024.  
Motion seconded by Mary Russo. The motion passed by a roll call vote:  
Crystal Evans-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Robin Torpey-yes*

**Discussion of Construction Projects Protocol:**

Ms. McGrath stated this item was put on the agenda after a request at the last Commission meeting. Members were going to put some ideas together and discuss potential protocols at this meeting. She did advise the acting DPW Director that this discussion was going to be held so he is aware.

Ms. Ziniti stated part of this discussion would be to have a policy in place during construction projects to ensure sidewalks remain accessible. Ms. Ziniti stated she reached out to the Architectural Access Director and asked for sample language but has not heard from her. She will ask her again at their monthly meeting. Ms. Evans asked if this would be an ordinance, a policy, or a contractual item. Ms. McGrath recommended this be a policy that would be part of a construction project and the contractor would be responsible for ensuring they are in compliance with the requirements of the policy. This would be built into the permitting requirements. She recommended getting input from town counsel.

Ms. Evans asked if members have any suggestions on what should be included in this policy. Town Councilor Elizabeth Maglio requested to speak. She stated the Commission could use the language she proposed, which would allow the Commission to be able to weigh-in on any construction projects, no matter what department it is coming from. This would become the Commission's own policy through the Mayor and would be a function of the Commission's role. Ms. Torpey and Ms. Russo were in agreement. Ms. Evans forwarded the proposed language to members via email for their review.

Ms. Evans referenced Braintree's present snow removal ordinance which contains language about who can enforce the ordinance. She proposed having similar language in this proposed policy so it is clear who can enforce this, particularly the police department since they often are providing details for construction projects. Ms. McGrath stated they would have to discuss this with the police department.

Members discussed how other cities and towns, such as Boston, handle temporary sidewalks and how that can be applied in Braintree. They also discussed best practices when closing long lengths of sidewalk or doing long-term projects. Ms. Evans proposed the Commission consider purchasing popup barriers for short-term town projects. Ms. Ziniti stated at the last meeting they had discussed possibly purchasing portable curb cuts and renting them out for projects. She discussed this idea with the DPW and they liked the idea but had a lot of logistical questions. Ms. Evans sent members examples of equipment they could purchase. She asked Ms. Ziniti to look into best practices for blind pedestrians during construction projects. It was agreed to gather additional information and continue this discussion at the next meeting.

### **Handicapped Parking Fund Account:**

Ms. McGrath reported the current balance in the handicapped parking fund is \$42,885.78.

### **Other Business:**

Ms. Torpey asked to follow-up on the Safety Net bracelet discussion. She asked if there is technology available for people which would be similar to a tracking collar for dogs, or the technology used for ankle bracelets, which could not be removed by the individual. Ms. Evans stated these devices would still have to be charged.

Ms. Evans asked that a snow removal discussion be put on the next agenda.

**Next Meeting:** February 3, 2025

### **Adjournment:**

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to adjourn the Commission on Disabilities meeting at 7:43 p.m. Motion seconded by Mary Russo. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Crystal Evans-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Mary Russo-yes*