

**BRAINTREE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**  
**Meeting Held Via Zoom**  
**Monday, July 7, 2025, 6:30 p.m.**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Crystal Evans, Treasurer  
Robin Torpey, Member  
Scott Lamphere, Member  
Kelly Ormsby, Member

**NOT PRESENT:** Mary Russo, 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 6:35 p.m. by roll call vote: Crystal Evans-yes;  
Robin Torpey-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of June 2, 2025 were reviewed.

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to approve the meeting minutes of June 2, 2025. Motion seconded by Scott Lamphere. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Crystal Evans-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes*

**Informational**

Stop & Shop Plaza Update: Ms. Ziniti stated she spoke to Engineering, Legal, as well as the Building Inspector. She found that ultimately this is private property and the town is not responsible for the curb cuts. The planter under the Stop & Shop sign was intended as a safety measure instead of installing bollards. The town solicitor advised members contact the Architectural Access Board as private citizens with these concerns.

Ms. Evans stated this is incorrect. There is active construction going on at that plaza which would trigger Mass Architectural compliance which the Building Department has the jurisdiction to enforce. She stated anyone coming in to access the pool that is being constructed has to have a clear path from Liberty Street all the way up to the storefront. Stop & Shop would have to remove the planter and curb cuts would have to be installed. She stated this should be the case with any renovation in town and the building inspector needs to take responsibility. Ms. McGrath stated they will bring this discussion back to the Town Solicitor and the Building Inspector. Ms. Torpey stated she was in agreement

with Ms. Evans assessment. She stated it is hard to navigate that area without walking in the parking lot.

**MBTA Redline Elevator:** Ms. Ziniti stated in June Ms. Evans made her aware of the fact that the elevator at the Braintree MBTA station had a sign stating the elevator was undergoing repairs and would be closed. Ms. Ziniti asked her MBTA representative if this was true and what their plans were to get people to the platform. The representative got back to her ten days later saying they removed the signs, nothing is set in stone on the repair and once they get a firm date they will let her know. Three days later she received another picture with the sign indicating the elevator is closed for repairs until August 22. Ms. Ziniti stated she again went down to the MBTA station and took a photograph and sent it to the representative informing them Braintree residents need to be informed and be provided an alternative to the elevator. The MBTA responded that riders would be offered a shuttle to Quincy Adams.

Ms. Evans stated the elevator is being replaced with a new elevator utilizing the existing shaft. She was hoping they would install a glass elevator similar to the elevators in the Quincy stations. Ms. McGrath stated they were unhappy with the lack of communication and as this project moves forward they are going to keep in touch with the MBTA for updates. Ms. Evans recommended they be in contact with Systemwide Accessibility for the MBTA as they are the first contact for all things accessible. She provided two contact names which may be helpful. Ms. Torpey expressed frustration with how long it takes the MBTA to complete a project.

**Scheduling Handicap Fees Discussion with Finance Director and Collector:** Ms. McGrath stated there have been some questions on what the process is for receipt of handicapped parking fines and how they go through the system. They reached out to the Finance Director, Mike Esmond, and both he and Kristina O'Connell, the Treasurer Collector, will be coming to a fall meeting to provide an overview of the process. This will also be an opportunity to discuss the amount of the parking fines.

### **Discussion: Commission on Disabilities Members**

**Ideas for Accessible Expenditures, Handicapped Parking Fund:** Ms. Ziniti stated as the members are considering future expenditures they may want to consider purchasing a wheelchair height speaker's podium. Recently Ms. Evans spoke at a meeting and they realized they did not have this type of podium. Ms. Evans stated a lower podium could also be used for children who might be speaking at town hall. She recommended looking into an adjustable podium. Ms. Torpey agreed that this would be a good use of their funds. Ms. Ziniti stated she will send examples to the members for their review.

Ms. McGrath stated they were under the impression there were two benches along the new Monatiquot River Walk. However, when she and Ms. Ziniti walked the trail they found they were just repurposed pieces of granite, which are not accessible. They discussed this with Laura Morrison, the Conservation Planner, and asked if the Commission would consider endorsing the purchase of accessible benches for the walk, one for each landing site. The two benches purchased for the Department of Elder Affairs

cost approximately \$2500. Ms. Evans recommended installing a railing on the first landing, similar to the railing currently on the second landing. She also recommended installing an asphalt or stone dust trail over to the fish ladder to make it accessible.

Ms. Evans stated in the past she had asked about installing bike racks in certain locations, as people tend to chain their bikes to trees, limiting sidewalk access. She also reminded members they had discussed installing a bench and doing patio work near Southside Tavern. She would like to revisit these topics.

Ms. Ormsby recommended purchasing low tech AAC communication boards that can be installed in public places, such as playgrounds, so those who are nonverbal have a means of communication. They could be used by children as well as adults. She stated the price for something like this can range from \$1200 to \$5000. Ms. Evans stated this could be approached on a trial basis at some of the playgrounds which are fenced in. She also suggested utilizing this in the library. Ms. Torpey was in favor of pursuing this.

**Motel 6 Development Questions:** Ms. McGrath stated they can gather the members' questions and bring them to Planning Department and Engineering to get answers. Ms. Torpey stated when she was driving by the area of the dump she noted the sidewalk is all grass. She stated if they are doing something with the Motel 6 property they will need sidewalks in that area. Ms. McGrath stated they have plans to redesign that intersection which are almost complete. This will be a complete reconstruction of the Union, Ivory Street, Grossman Drive intersection. They will be putting in a better identified crosswalk between the commuter rail side of Grossman Drive over to Daddy's Dairy, which will be signalized. They will be doing crosswalk work from the commuter rail side of Union Street across to the Ivory Street side of the MBTA. They will also be putting a crosswalk from the MBTA side across to the new development. Ms. McGrath stated in the old Motel 6 location they are proposing a Cava restaurant, Shake Shack, a bank, and an animal hospital. They will also be installing a sidewalk on the transfer station side of Ivory Street.

**August Meeting:** Ms. McGrath stated traditionally the Commission has not held an August meeting and she asked if the members wanted to hold one this August. Ms. McGrath noted she will not be available the first Monday of August. Ms. Torpey recommended not holding a meeting. Ms. Evans recommended holding a brief meeting because they have already missed one meeting due to lack of quorum. Mr. Lamphere stated he would be okay with not having a meeting. Ms. Ormsby stated she is fine with either decision. The members decided to move forward with holding a meeting in August.

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

Ms. McGrath reported the current balance in the handicapped parking fund is \$48,780.78, which is an increase of \$930 since the last meeting.

**Other Business:**

Ms. Evans stated the municipal lot handicapped parking spots were repainted last week and are still noncompliant. She provided photos to Mayor Joyce. Ms. Ziniti stated she is going to visit this lot with Matt Jacques and try to get a resolution.

Ms. Evans stated some of the audible signals in the crosswalk buttons are not loud enough for traffic conditions. She asked if DPW could conduct a survey of the audibility. Ms. Ziniti stated she will mention this to Engineering and BELD if needed.

**Next Meeting:** August 4, 2025

**Adjournment:**

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to adjourn the Commission on Disabilities meeting at 8:03 p.m. Motion seconded by Kelly Ormsby. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Crystal Evans-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*