

**BRAINTREE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**  
**Meeting Held Via Zoom**  
**Monday, November 3, 2025, 6:30 p.m.**

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

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

**Call to Order:**

Kelly Ormsby served as Acting Chairperson for this meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by roll call vote: Crystal Evans-yes;  
Robin Torpey-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes; Mary Russo-yes

**Approval of Minutes:**

Discussion was held to amend the original approval of the September 8, 2025 meeting minutes that was held on October 6, 2025, as there was a motion and second made, but no vote taken by all members.

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to amend the original approval of the meeting minutes of September 8, 2025. Motion seconded by Scott Lamphere. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Crystal Evans-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes*

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to approve the meeting minutes of September 8, 2025, as amended. Motion seconded by Scott Lamphere. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Crystal Evans-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes*

The minutes of October 6, 2025 were reviewed.

Discussion was held on the following items that were not properly approved at the October 6, 2025 meeting.

Approval to form a Community Planning Subcommittee:

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to amend the original approval to form a Community Planning Subcommittee. Motion seconded by Scott Lamphere. The motion passed by a*

*roll call vote: Scott Lamphere-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Crystal Evans-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to approve the formation of a Community Planning Subcommittee, as amended. Motion seconded by Scott Lamphere. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Robin Torpey-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Crystal Evans-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*

Approval to move discussion of bike racks, communication boards, benches, patio access for South Braintree Square to the Community Planning Subcommittee:

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to amend the original approval moving discussion of bike racks, communication boards, benches, and patio access for South Braintree Square to the Community Planning Subcommittee. Motion seconded by Crystal Evans. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Scott Lamphere-yes; Crystal Evans-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*

*Motion made by Crystal Evans to approve moving discussion of bike racks, communication boards, benches, and patio access for South Braintree Square to the Community planning Subcommittee, as amended. Motion seconded by Robin Torpey. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Crystal Evans-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*

Approval of Community Planning Subcommittee to formulate letters to commercial properties regarding bike racks:

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to amend the original approval for the Community Planning Subcommittee formulating letters to commercial properties regarding bike racks. Motion seconded by Crystal Evans. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Scott Lamphere-yes; Crystal Evans-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to approve the Community Planning Subcommittee formulating letters to commercial properties regarding bike racks, as amended. Motion seconded by Crystal Evans. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Scott Lamphere-yes; Crystal Evans-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*

Approval to move ongoing work around MassDOT issues to the Community Planning Subcommittee:

*Motion made by Crystal Evans to amend original approval moving ongoing work around MassDOT issues to the Community Planning Subcommittee. Motion seconded by Robin Torpey. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Robin Torpey-yes; Crystal Evans-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to approve moving ongoing work around MassDOT issues to the Community Planning Subcommittee, as amended. Motion seconded by Crystal Evans. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Crystal Evans-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*

Approval of the vote for adjournment of October 6, 2025 Commission on Disabilities Meeting:

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to amend previous approval of adjournment of the October 6, 2025 Commission on Disabilities meeting. Motion seconded by Scott Lamphere. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Robin Torpey-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Crystal Evans-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to approve adjournment of the October 6, 2025 Commission on Disabilities meeting, as amended. Motion seconded by Mary Russo. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Scott Lamphere-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Crystal Evans-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to approve the meeting minutes of October 6, 2025, as amended. Motion seconded by Crystal Evans. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Crystal Evans-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes*

Ms. Evans expressed concern that members were not notified of these discrepancies prior to this meeting. Ms. McGrath stated she was not at the October 6 meeting and was made aware of the discrepancies when the recording secretary submitted the minutes.

Ms. McGrath stated she will have Jim Casey, Town Clerk, attend a future meeting to discuss Robert's Rules of Order.

### **Updates:**

**Sidewalk Concerns:** Ms. Ziniti stated she forwarded the concerns raised by Ms. Evans regarding sidewalks around McDonald's, Olympian Diner, Richardi's Subs, Dunkin Donuts next to Richardi's, Quality Fuels and 66 Gas to the Engineering Department and they will add these items to their next Traffic Advisory Safety Committee (TASC) agenda for discussion. Ms. Evans stated she also had a concern about the sidewalks at Cumberland Farms. Ms. Ziniti stated she will forward this to Engineering as well. In the meantime they have made the traffic enforcement officer aware of these areas of concern.

**Accessible Bench Replacement at Thayer Library:** Ms. Ziniti stated the Commission had endorsed installation of benches, two at River Walk and one in front of the library. The DPW Director has informed her there is a lot going on at River Walk right now so installing benches would not be an option at this time. However, they would like to proceed with replacement of the library bench, which is currently a six foot bench. She stated she sent members the estimated cost for this bench, which is similar to the bench

installed at Elder Services. She stated the cost of the bench and freight cost would be approximately \$1300.

Ms. Evans stated someone in the Mayor's office informed her a girl scout troop is also interested in doing something similar with benches at River Walk and she suggested working with the girl scouts on the accessibility portion. She stated the Mayor's office is going to be following up with the troop and maybe there can be a future collaboration between them and the Commission.

Ms. Evans stated the pad the library bench is on is just under ten feet, which is why she suggested an eight foot bench, as the current bench is heavily utilized. She recommended installing a full eight foot bench. Ms. McGrath suggested Ms. Ziniti bring this back to Engineering to ensure the pad is able to support the eight foot bench and this can then be discussed at a future meeting. Mr. Lamphere asked if they would be able to vote tonight on both sizes so the project will not be held up. Ms. Ziniti stated the cost of an eight foot bench is \$1109, with freight of \$610, for a total of \$1719. Ms. McGrath informed the members they took an appropriate vote at the October 6, 2025 meeting to purchase eight foot benches. She stated if they would like to take an additional vote for a six foot bench they can do so.

Ms. Evans asked if they could consider putting a memorial plaque on the bench, as she has someone in mind. Ms. McGrath stated they can check with the Mayor's office to see what the mechanism is for memorializing a bench and discuss this at a future meeting.

*Motion made by Scott Lamphere to purchase a six foot bench if the eight foot bench already approved by the Commission will not fit. Motion seconded by Robin Torpey. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Scott Lamphere-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Crystal Evans-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*

December 2025 Meeting: Ms. Ziniti stated she will not be available for the December Commission meeting. The members have satisfied the recommended ten meetings for this year and she asked if they want to discuss not meeting in December. Ms. Evans stated they should still hold the meeting, regardless of having met the ten meetings. They have a subcommittee meeting scheduled with the Mayor and will have updates to bring back to the Commission. Ms. McGrath stated she will be available for the meeting, which would be December 1, 2025.

### **Continued Discussions:**

Ms. McGrath noted the discussion items on the agenda including purchasing bike racks, communication boards, and MassDOT have been moved forward to the subcommittee for discussion and review. Ms. Evans stated they have a subcommittee meeting scheduled with the Mayor for November 14 at 11:30 a.m. to go over some of these proposed purchases and there is no point in reviewing this further until they get her input. Ms. Evans recommended putting these items under the heading of Subcommittee Update on the December meeting agenda. Ms. McGrath stated they can assist the subcommittee with preparation of their public meeting notices.

Ms. Evans stated the subcommittee will be meeting prior to November 14 for discussion and to assign roles of chair and notetaker. Ms. McGrath informed the subcommittee members that when assigning roles such as chairperson, the person who will be chairperson cannot vote themselves for the position, the other committee member must vote. Also, if the meeting is in person roll call votes are not required. If the meeting is via Zoom roll call votes are required.

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

Ms. McGrath reported the total amount in the handicapped parking fund is \$51,910.78. Ms. Ziniti noted this amount reflects receipts collected through September of this year.

### **Other Business:**

Ms. Torpey reported a friend passed along to her a concern regarding sidewalks in the West Street area. She walks her granddaughter and stated the conditions are terrible and she has to walk in the road. The area she mentioned was five corners to the water tower. Ms. Torpey stated there are a lot of elderly and disabled people in this area and it is a busy street.

Ms. McGrath stated Ms. Torpey had brought this concern to their attention prior to this meeting and they did discuss this with the Town Engineer, John Thompson, who sent an email in reply. Ms. McGrath read his reply to the members, indicating sidewalk replacement is expensive and done according to a sidewalk prioritization plan. His best estimate for replacement, based on the ranking of this location, is three years. He indicated they can evaluate small point repairs on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Evans stated the town recently changed the public trashcans from open cans to cans that have a lid that has to be stepped on to open them. She provided members with an email containing photos. She asked how these decisions are being made and why is this not coming through the Commission for accessibility review. She stated there are different designs and this one is poor from an access standpoint. Ms. McGrath stated they will discuss this with the DPW Director to get more information. Ms. Evans stated she was told the trashcans were changed because of rats. Mr. Lamphere stated the access is problematic but rats are becoming an increasing problem and open trashcans are a problem. Ms. Torpey expressed concern that the trashcans require people to touch them to access them. Ms. McGrath stated she will get more information to bring forward at a future meeting.

Ms. Evans stated a five-year-old child brought to her attention that there is no curb cut access to South Middle School from the street to the front door. There is one curb cut which requires traveling around the entire property. She took a video of the location and showed it to the Commission members. Ms. McGrath stated this information has been received by the Mayor's office, the Town Clerk and the Building Department and they will be doing an after action review on this. Ms. Evans asked if there can be signage used to address this in the meantime. Ms. McGrath stated the Town Clerk has been informed and will have signage in place for voting on November 4, 2025.

Mr. Lamphere asked that the other schools be looked at as well during the review, as it is hard to find access to sidewalks if you are not parked in a handicapped space.

Ms. Torpey expressed concern that ADA guidelines have to be followed by businesses when they do construction but public projects are not compliant.

Ms. Evans asked if they could do a presentation to the School Committee on MassDOT funding to get their support. Ms. McGrath stated the Commission took a vote to do a presentation to the Town Council, but would have to take a vote to do this presentation for the School Committee.

*Motion made by Robin Torpey to do a presentation to the School Committee on MassDOT funding. Motion seconded by Kelly Ormsby. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Robin Torpey-yes; Scott Lamphere-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Crystal Evans-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*

Ms. Torpey stated she has past notes from the Commission which she does not believe are on file. She asked if she can bring them to Ms. McGrath so they can be scanned into the system. Ms. McGrath agreed the notes can be brought to her office.

**Next Meeting:** December 1, 2025

**Adjournment:**

*Motion made by Scott Lamphere to adjourn the Commission on Disabilities meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion seconded by Crystal Evans. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Scott Lamphere-yes; Robin Torpey-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Crystal Evans-yes; Kelly Ormsby-yes.*