

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
JANUARY 6, 2014
MINUTES**

In Attendance: Barbara Tennison, Lynn Vaillancourt, Robin Torpey and Jennifer Shaw

Building Dept. Liaison: Mike McGourty

Mayor's Liaison: Chris Griffin

Guest: Mr. Larry Haile, MBTA Coordinator, System-wide Accessibility

Meeting Opened: 6:33 P.M. **Meeting Adjourned:** 7:59 P.M.

Telephone Calls: 2 calls received:

- 1- Braintree resident called in regards to having to renew her eligibility for the RIDE & the new requirements they are asking. She wanted to know if we had any insight as to this change. Barbara called her back and also invited her to our next meeting.
- 2- Larry Haile, Coordinator, System-wide Accessibility for the MBTA wanted to attend a meeting to explain the program. Barbara spoke to him & extended an invitation to our next meeting.

ON-GOING/STATUS:

1. Proposed Community Center/Walk Through Upon Completion
Per Mike McGourty, Blue Hills Regional High School still working on remodeling.
2. Town Hall Accessible Entrance:
Per Chris Griffin, an architect was selected, awaiting plan approvals.
3. Water & Sewer Bldg.: (Old Thayer Library)
Per Mike McGourty, no update.
4. Transition Plan (TP):
Per Chris Griffin, no update.
5. Shade System for the Rock'N Ship Glider at the Highlands Playground:
Still searching for a vendor to purchase and install the shade system. It was suggested by Mike McGourty that someone other than a volunteer group to oversee this project. Barbara Tennison forwarded a list of proposed vendors and pricing to Barbara Mello.
6. Mass Highway's repaving of Route 37:
Per Mike McGourty, no update.
7. High School Pool and Rink
Per Chris Griffin, they are still in negotiations.
8. Daugherty Gym/MEMA:
Per Chris Griffin, no update.
9. Parks and Recreation Accessible Transportation:
Per Chris Griffin, Chris will speak to Nelson Chin again tomorrow regarding making sure that all Parks & Recreation trips offered to the public will be accessible to all.
10. Mobi-Chair/Town Purchase status:
Barbara Tennison is still waiting on the chair vendor response.

11. Charlotte Rose Playground Barrier Issue:
*Per Chris Griffin, Tom Whelan is hesitant to remove the wooden barrier due to water problems that could arise. Mr. Whelan wants to put a ramp over the barrier. Per Barbara Tennison, the plan to retrofit instead of taking down the barrier does not meet ADA nor AAB guidelines.
Per Chris, there will be accessible parking created on the Tremont Street entrance to the park, in front of the tennis courts.*
12. HP Funds-Review of Revenue:
Chris Griffin stated he had not been able to have a discussion with Mayor Sullivan yet regarding the HP fine issues. It was suggested that he board set up a meeting with the Police Dept., with the recommendation of having a liaison to the board as we have in the past.
13. Town-wide Road and Sidewalk work:
No update.
14. Disability Awareness:
Larry Haile, Coordinator of the System-Wide Accessibility MBTA Program met with the board on January 6, 2014 to discuss a new program the MBTA is rolling out for Travel Training for individuals with challenges, i.e. physical, visionally impaired and etc.
15. Can accommodations to be made on private property on behalf of a disabled person:
A reasonable accommodation can be requested for an individual, but since it is a private owned property, it would be up to the discretion of the property owner to allow it.
16. Advertising and Recruitment for new Board Members:
Lynn Vaillancourt will put a notice in St. Clare's Church bulletin.
17. Polling Places-Accessibility:
Discussion will continue at the next meeting.
18. Handicap Parking Program/Fraudulent Use of Placard or Plate:
Chris Griffin will speak to the Police Dept.; suggesting the formation of a liaison to the C.O.D., as well as to help to create this program for the Town of Braintree.

NEW BUSINESS:

Larry Haile, Coordinator of the System-Wide Accessibility Program for the MBTA, came before the board to discuss the "Ways2Go" Travel Training Program and how it enables seniors and persons with disabilities to learn to travel independently.

The Creative Housing Workshop for people with disabilities will be held at The Thayer Public Library, Tuesday, January 28, 2014, from 6-8 PM.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY FEB. 3, 2014