

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
APRIL 6, 2015 MINUTES**

In Attendance:

Board members: Barbara Tennison, Robin Torpey, Paul Wasil, Judy Coletta,
Lynn Vaillancourt, Crystal Evans-Pradhan
Building Dept. Liaison: Michael McGourty
Mayor's Liaison: Unable to attend

Meeting Opened: 6:31PM **Meeting Adjourned:** 7:35PM
Phone Calls Received: None
Approved: March meeting notes
HP Funds Account Balance: \$30,217.96

Town Buildings:

Community Art Center Anticipated opening, May 2015

Transition Plan: DTD for a follow up meeting with Mayor Sullivan to further discuss the Town's Transition Plan that was completed by Russ Forsberg in 2013

Town Hall: Accessible entrance, waiting on modified architectural plans
No update from Christine Stickney

Old Thayer Library: New plans in the works for use of building once construction is complete. No update from Christine Stickney

Daugherty Gym: Awaiting word on plans for updating and modifying the building for use as BEMA shelter, it needs to be brought up to AAB/ADA code, as well as all other shelters in Braintree

Town Hall Basement Entrance: Continuous problems with the automatic door opener button. Per Chris Griffin's suggestion (March 2015), button should be checked on an on-going basis; as well as the water that tends to pool at the door opening which then freezes over in cold weather.

High School Pool and Skating Rink: Still in negotiations

Town Parks & Recreation:

Charlotte Rose Playground: Playground opened in August, 2013 with a barrier completely surrounding play equipment. The board has been working with Tom Whalen and Chris Griffin in requesting that the barrier be removed. Walkway is to be constructed from HP parking/tennis courts to the playground. No update

Highlands Playground: The RockNGlide has been out of commission since Sept. 2013, part was delivered and should be installed within the next few weeks depending on weather. Swing harnesses have been purchased for the accessible swings. This is the 2nd time the swing harnesses have been vandalized. Nelson Chin was looking into a way in which to have the harnesses installed so that they cannot be removed

Hollingsworth Playground: Tom Whalen & Barbara plan to do a walk through in May

Streets and Roads:

The board will create and maintain a spreadsheet for new items as well to keep track of on-going issues including timelines

Audible signals. Board member Lynn Vaillancourt is working with Bob Campbell, Town Engineer to determine locations for more audible signals at major intersections throughout the town

Snow Removal: The board will continue to work closely with DPW to ensure that streets and sidewalks are cleared in a timely manner and kept cleared. The board will also continue to reach out with the help of the Mayor's office to ask residents and business owners to assist with the snow removal each and every winter. The Home Aid Project is a project created in the city of New Bedford to assist disabled residents throughout the winter in keeping their sidewalks and driveways clear of snow and ice. The board would like to see a program like New Bedford's created here in Braintree. Barbara will send proposal to the Mayor, as well as Tom Whalen.

Miscellaneous:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Handicap Parking Program
Fraudulent use of HP placard
or plate: | The program needs to be addressed with the town's police. No
update |
| Disability Handicap Indicator
Program: | Barbara to follow up with the town's police to find out if the
program is still in place and what we can do to notify our town's
citizens of the program or is there another program in place? |
| Braintree Housing Authority: | Plan for walk through of the Heritage Drive complex. No date
set |

New Business:

Scheduled working meeting for April 22nd to create spreadsheet for DPW concerns, write up BEMA questions, as a follow up to November's meeting and to also work on Town Council presentation.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Facebook: | Board member Crystal Evans-Pradhan is researching the
possibility of designing a Facebook page for the commission |
| Handicap Parking Funds: | Barbara will send an article to the Patriot Ledger, Forum and
Patch letting residents and organizations know that there is
funding available through the C.O.D. to assist in improving,
updating or creating universal accessibility within the town |
| Town Council Presentation: | Barbara will contact the council to set up date and time |
| Wheelchair Accessible Taxis: | Crystal is researching the possibility of having accessible taxis
in Braintree |