

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
MAY 4, 2015 MINUTES**

**In Attendance:**

**Board members:**

Barbara Tennison, Robin Torpey, Paul Wasil, Judy Coletta,  
Lynn Vaillancourt, Crystal Evans-Pradhan, Jennifer Shaw

**Building Dept. Liaison:**

Erik Erskine

**Mayor's Liaison:**

Chris Griffin

**Meeting Opened:**

6:31PM

**Meeting Adjourned:**

7:47PM

**Approved:**

April meeting notes

**April Phone Calls Received:**

3 calls:

Jim Smith from BELD, the C.O.D. laptop is all set to be picked up.

Female resident wanted to put a HP sign in front of her home. Robin left message to get more details, no response. Chris Griffin will contact her.

Female resident wanted to know if there was any tax breaks for disabled persons. C.O.D. is not aware of any tax breaks except for the excise tax, which someone with a disability may be eligible for an exempt status depending on the type of vehicle and who it is registered under. Individual was going to contact the assessor's office.

**HP Funds Account Balance:** \$31,292.96

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**Town Buildings:**

**Community Art Center:**

No update. No response to our recommendations. Opening still to proceed as scheduled. Lift meets code.

**Transition Plan:**

Barbara Tennison met with the Mayor on 4/16/2015, as well as Shannon Hume, Ross Forsberg and MaryBeth McGrath. Top 3 priorities for construction within the town that will be worked on within the next couple of years are the Town Hall, East Middle School and the Old Thayer Library

**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:**

No update per Erik Erskine

**Town Buildings Continued:**

**BEMA:** Barbara Tennison contends that it is too large an issue for C.O.D. to deal with on our own. Members agreed to table it for the time being while we look into what other towns/cities do to combine their lists of individuals with medical or special needs

**High School Pool and:  
Skating Rink:** No update per Erik Erskine

**Town Parks & Recreation:**

**Charlotte Rose Playground:** No update

**Highlands Playground:** The RockNGlide was repaired on April 24, 2015. Swing harnesses had been replaced in September & were vandalized again. New harnesses have been ordered

**Hollingsworth Playground:** No update

**Water Wheels/Beach  
Access Chair:** Chair has been ordered & will be delivered to Parks & Rec Bldg. within a couple of weeks

**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:** Lynn will find out where signals should be placed and also will find out if the chirper & voice activation signal can be used together

**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	Chris will look into who the community officer would be that we could contact
Fraudulent use of HP placard or plate	Chris will look into who the community officer would be that we could contact
Disability Handicap Indicator Program:	Chris will look into who the community officer would be that we could contact
Braintree Housing Authority:	No update
Advertising of HP Funds:	Barbara will send an article to the Forum and Ledger
Wheelchair Accessible Taxi:	No update
Town Council Meeting Presentation:	Barbara Tennison to send a request to present for mid June
Signs for out of order elevators:	Barbara Tennison stated to Chris Griffin that having signs on the outside of a town building would be nice to notify persons of out of order elevators before they enter the building
Facebook:	Crystal is researching the possibility of designing a Facebook page for the commission

**New Business**

Silent Call procedure for 911	Tabled
The Secretary of State Election Division Accessibility Study	Paul Wasil will join Jim Casey on walk through of polling locations the week of May 18th
Voter Tabulator Demonstration	Crystal will attend demonstration
Election Ballot Call Button	Request by Jim Casey to purchase the buttons was tabled till after the accessibility study is completed

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Creation of sign for RockNGlide: Proposal for a sign to be created letting the public know the purpose of the ride in hopes to keep the ride from being vandalized. The ride has been out of commission for months due to a broken part which may be due to the misuse of the ride

Legal Seafood  
A request was made to have the door at Legal Seafood checked, it appears to need an adjustment, difficult to open. Erik will take care of it

NEXT MEETING JUNE 1, 2015

(BT/RST 5/13/2015)