

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

May 13, 2013

MINUTES

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

Mayor Sullivan's Administrative Assistant: Christopher Griffin

Building Department Liaison: Mike McGourty

Guest: Nelson Chin, Parks & Recreation Director

Christine Stickney, CPC

Jeff Dougan, Mass. Office on Disabilities

Meeting Opened: 6:10 P.M. **Meeting Adjourned:** 8:00 P.M.

ON-GOING/STATUS:

1. Thayer Public Library Accessibility:
 A letter has been received stating the variance has been approved.

2. Proposed Community Center/Playground Restrooms at 1969
 Washington Street plan progress:
 *Per Chris Griffin, no updates, Mayor Sullivan is looking into a limited use
 elevator.*

3. Town Hall Accessible Entrance:
 *Per Christine Stickney. Still waiting on funding for architect to draw up plans on
 accessible entrance.*

4. Water & Sewer Bldg.: (Old Thayer Library)
 *Bldg. is empty, no water, heat or electricity. Per Christine Stickney, the new
 addition will have a lift. Mass Historical Fund & CPC funds will be available.
 There are 3 phases. The roof is done, repainting and refinishing the front and old
 windows, and refinishing the door, making it accessible.*

5. Transition Plan (TP):
 *Per Mike McGourty, there are some delays. By fall, C.O.D. will be notified of any
 updates so that C.O.D. can review and make applicable suggestions.*

6. Funding for a Shading System for the Rock'N Ship Glider at the Highlands
 Playground:
 Per Barbara Tennison, there has been no response as of yet.

7. Mass Highway's repaving of Route 37:
 *Per Chris Griffin, the town might be able to do the curb cut work, in-house, from
 Dunkin' Donuts to Five Corners. Chris has spoken to Rep. Cusack regarding this
 issue and he is willing to assist the town in the matter.*

8. Watson Park Splash Pad & High School pool & rink plans status:
 *Per Nelson Chin, plans are fully accessible. Splash Pad is concrete and will be
 enclosed in correlation with walkway with 4' chain link fence.*

9. High School/Pool and Rink
Per Chris Griffin, this project will be constructed and managed by a private company. Town is still in negotiations. Once the company has been selected, the C.O.D. will be advised and involved in the planning.
10. Daugherty Gym/MEMA:
Per Chris Griffin, this project is on hold. The doors are the only work that has been done. Per Tom Whelan's letter of May 13, 2013, the 3rd paragraph states that an automatic door button will be added to all doors and updates will be made to the handicap ramp. Tom Whelan is willing to do a site meeting with C.O.D., to make sure that the building is ADA compliant.
11. Community Outreach Mailing:
No update.
12. Neighbor Brigade (NB):
NB has a list of persons who can assist persons in need. If someone needs assistance in an emergency temporary basis, have to check list to see who could assist. All volunteers are CORI checked. There is no babysitting or elder sitting, except in an emergency situation, such as if the person's original help at the last minute backed out. NB is for "Emergency Temporary Issues" only.
13. Parks and Recreation Accessible Transportation:
Per Lynn Vaillancourt, Dept. of Elder Services uses the McGinn Bus Co. Per Sandy at Elder Services, they are not really accessible, the buses entrance has lowering stairs which makes the bus non-accessible to all. Sandy stated that the person could use the medical van and driver if need be. Per Jeff Dougan, he will continue to research for bus companies that are accessible and is willing to assist Mr. Chin in anyway he can.
14. Mobi-Chair/Town Purchase status:
Per Chris Griffin, there is no update.
15. Charlotte Rose Playground-outreach:
The town will have to comply in making the playground accessible. Per Jeff Dougan, any new playground needs to be totally accessible, grounds, equipment, pathways.
16. HP Funds-Review of Revenue:
Per Barbara Tennison, C.O.D. has \$10,740 in the account.
17. Serving People with Disabilities Grant:
No update.
18. Town wide Census:
Information cannot be included in the town wide census, due to privacy violation.

NEW:

19. Reminder that the Community Inclusion Awards Ceremony is Thursday May 23rd
20. Hollister Clothing Shops: *News article of appeal by Hollister for accessibility issues.*
21. C.O.D. Administrative Budget: *We have an administrative budget of \$1,100. If it is not used within the fiscal year, we lose it.*
22. Disability Awareness Outreach - discussion on the possibility of writing articles on disability related matters

(RT 6/2/2013)