

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
DECEMBER 1, 2014 MINUTES**

**In Attendance:** Barbara Tennison, Robin Torpey, Jennifer Shaw, Paul Wasil, Judy Coletta,  
Lynn Vaillancourt, Crystal Evans-Pradhan.

**Building Dept. Liaison:** Not Present

**Mayor's Assistant:** Not Present

**Meeting Opened:** 6:30 P.M.     **Meeting Adjourned:** 8:35 P.M.

**Telephone Calls:** No Phone Calls

**Approved:** November 3, 2014 Meeting Notes

**ON-GOING/STATUS:**

1. Proposed Community Center/Walk Through Upon Completion:  
*Anticipated Spring 2015*
2. Town Hall Accessible Entrance:  
*Christine Stickney along with the CPC committee members and representatives from BH&A Architectural Firm presented 3 concepts, one of which was the Mayor's 1st choice on the design for the accessible entrance being planned for the side of the town hall. C.O.D. board members were given the opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns. Most concerning to the board was the design of the walkway (accessible route from the parking lot) to the entrance. The board was assured that all our concerns would be taken into consideration when the CPC board members reconvene with the Mayor.*
3. Water & Sewer Bldg (Old Thayer Library)  
*No update*
4. Transition Plan (TP):  
*At a Nov. 6th meeting with the Mayor to update him on the Community Access Monitor Program which was held on Oct. 22 & 23, Barbara was asked to be a part of a committee to discuss next steps with the Transition Plan. Meeting date, yet to be determined.*
5. Parks & Recreation:
  - RockNGLide: *Nelson Chin finally had success contacting the manufacturer and it was determined that a part needs to be replaced. The manufacturer will be sending the part to Nelson and it will be installed by DPW. Warranty will continue*
  - Charlotte Rose Playground: *Per Tom Whalen, the plan is to remove the tennis courts that are in disrepair. By removing the tennis courts, it will make for a smoother and more accessible route to the playground from the Tremont Street parking area, as well as an entrance to the playground. The barrier which was installed around the play equipment will either be removed or an opening will be constructed to make it accessible to all.*
  - Hollingsworth Playground: *Per Tom Whalen, the park is not 100% complete, Barbara & Tom plan to take a walk through of the park within the next few weeks; upon it's completion.*
6. High School Pool and Rink:  
*Still out to bid.*
7. Daugherty Gym/BEMA:  
*Bob James, Director of Emergency Management, along with his staff, attended November's C.O.D. meeting, to address the list of questions and concerns that were presented to him. The commission needs to review the information that was handed out to them as well as discuss next steps with our concerns for the special needs population in the town when a disaster happens.*
8. Polling Places-Accessibility  
*Per Jim Casey, on election day, signs were in place for voters to be directed to accessible entrances and parking.*
9. Handicap Parking Program/Fraudulent Use of Placard or Plate  
*No update*
10. Mass Office on Disabilities/Community Access Monitor Program (Oct. 22-23/2014):  
*34 consumer and professionals attended the program. C.O.D collected registration fees totaling \$1,070.; awaiting report from Ed Spellman for the exact amount deposited after paying Panera invoice*

11. South Shore Plaza Sears Entrance:  
*Per Robin Torpey, Russ Forsberg informed her that Sears may be closing their Braintree store, therefore, the request for an automatic door opener has been tabled*
12. Where in Braintree are the handicap accessible housing units?  
Roosevelt St. Senior Housing - 17 units that are accessible  
Heritage Drive Senior Housing - No fully accessible units, there have been modifications done to doorways, automatic doors installed at certain buildings, and the community kitchens are accessible.  
Marge Crispin Housing - 2 units fully accessible  
Multi-Family adaptable Housing - Sunset Lake Apartments, Turtle Crossing Condos, & Pond Street Condos  
Depending upon the # of units per sites whether an elevator is installed.  
If over 20 units: 95% of the units would need to be adaptable  
5% of the units have to have larger space in the bathroom and kitchen.  
If over 3 but less than 20 units:  
All units must be adaptable.
13. Town Hall Lower Level problems:  
*There is still an issue of water pooling in front of the HC entrance. No update.*
14. Disability Handicap Indicator Program/Braintree Police  
*Per Chris Griffin, Police Officer Jamie Mosseou, is the liaison for this program. Barbara will contact him.*
15. BELD- Bright Ideas  
*Barbara spoke with Jim Ritchie regarding the Parks & Rec advertisements to include the statement of the ability to have an accessible bus available for all their trips. Per Nelson Chin and Mary Anne Robinson all requests for advertising the Parks & Rec. Dept.'s bus trips are include in both the Patriot Ledger and the BELD Bright Ideas Bulletin that anyone in need of accessible transportation, would need to contact the Parks Dept. directly. Not sure where the miscommunication is happening. Mary Anne sent me a copy of an email that was used to advertise for a trip being planned for December. Barbara will follow through with Nelson.*
16. Audible Signals:  
*Eleven years ago the C.O.D. requested three major locations for the audible signals to be placed, but since then, no other signals have been installed. Board will research next steps on having more audible signals installed at major intersections throughout the town.*
17. Streets, Roads and Sidewalks:  
Tom Whalen, Director of D.P.W., will also be addressing the following issues and be giving us periodic updates:  
*-Board member Crystal Evans-Pradhan has created a list of problem areas around the Rt. 37 and Washington Street areas that are in need of sidewalk repair as well as street repairs needed on Hall Ave., Ms. Evans-Pradhan has experienced on numerous occasions damage to her wheelchair due to pot holes, gapes in sidewalks, tree roots sticking out of sidewalks along her routes of travel in her wheelchair. Ms. Evans-Pradhan met with Tom Whalen and Chris Griffin at some of the areas that are in need of repair. Plans are to fix what they can now and complete the repairs in the Spring.*  
*-Curb cuts along Pearl St. at the entrance to the Shaw's parking lot*  
*-On Nov. 3rd, Barbara Tennison received an e-mail from a resident on Commercial St. regarding the sidewalk in front of their home being in disrepair and dangerous for anyone walking along that route. Tom assured us that this would be taken care of. On November 11, 2014, Barbara received another email from the resident, DPW repaired the sidewalk on Saturday, Nov. 8. The resident couldn't be happier and wanted to thank the board for all they do.*  
*-Per Tom Whalen, any problems with town snow removal, please contact the following persons at the DPW-Highway Dept.: Steve O'Brien, Georgia, Dave McKenna, Walter Sullivan, 781-794-8950.*

*-Per Tom Whalen, the MBTA is responsible in clearing the snow on their properties only, the town is responsible for property outside the MBTA station, starting at the sidewalks.  
-Concerns were addressed with Tom Whalen regarding lack of curb cuts and sidewalks in disrepair in and around the High School, as well as along the access road. Tom Whalen stated he would address these issues and keep us up to date.*

**NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY JANUARY 5, 2015**

**(BT 12/30/14)**