



Marblehead Disabilities Commission

Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2023

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Dee Cuffe, Amy Hirschkron (*remote*), Ed Lang (*remote*), Andrea Mountain (*remote*)

Members Absent: Cheryl LaLonde, Briggete Duffy, Samantha Marino

Guests Present: Kyle Wiley, Nancy Powell

Ms. Blaisdell called the meeting to order at 4:15p.m.

1. Upon motion the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 2023 meeting.

2. Review Marblehead's ADA Report.- The commission members discussed how best to implement the items in the report and the necessity to include the Town Administrator and the ADA Coordinator. Discussion about projects being constructed to code from the beginning and carried out through completion, that permits should not be issued by the building department until all codes are complied with. The possibility of creating a checklist for construction work was suggested and a sign off sheet stating that the work was done to code. The ADA coordinator position, noted in the report, was discussed and it was agreed that the Town Administrator will have to be involved. The report states that "the ADA Coordinator is not involved in the scoping or planning of capital projects". It was agreed that this topic should continue to our next meeting to give the members a chance to better evaluate the information in the report.

3. Handicap parking violation was written for the HP space next to CVS at 45 Atlantic Ave, this ticket was appealed and dismissed due to the space not having proper signage. The highway department was notified and has fixed this issue with a proper sign at this location.

4. Providers meeting - Ms. Blaisdell reported that she attended the semiannual Providers meeting. This meeting is put on by the Female Humane Society. In attendance were Firefighters, many of the local charities, food pantries, councilors, religious organizations, the METCO director, the YMCA and the Marblehead Disabilities Commission. The purpose of these meetings is to gather these local groups and discuss the needs of the residents of Marblehead to see how best to serve them. This is a real opportunity to see what these organizations are doing and to collaborate on future goals.

5. 71 Atlantic Ave, - Change of Use. The Architectural Access Board had granted a variance for Hilltop Tutoring on 71 Atlantic Ave. for allowing use of neighbor's accessible bathroom instead of outfitting the current bathroom for ADA accessibility. The Disabilities Commission found this variance confusing and asked the Architectural Access Board for more details. Ms. Blaisdell



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received an email today 12/13/2023 stating the variance for the neighbor's restroom location is at 60C Atlantic Ave. the Radiance Hair Salon and Spa.

6. 139 Pleasant St. -Architectural Access Board Decision 12/12/2023 - "DENIED unless Petitioner provides the Board with the information it required in its March 28, 2022 Order within thirty (30) days of the date of receipt of this notice as impracticability (as defined in 521 CMR 5) has not been proven for this request". The Commission will continue to follow-up.

7. New Ramp - State St. and Harbormaster's Office – Ms. Blaisdell spoke with the Harbormaster. Blaisdell was going to follow-up and have the ramp slope remeasured with a professional. The Harbormaster said that the railings have been ordered.

8. Town report - Discussion regarding creating a report for the town's annual report for town meeting. Kyle Wiley said she would look into this and follow-up with the board.

The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: 1/10/2024

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie R. Blaisdell, Chair

Approved by unanimous vote of the Commission: _____

Appendix:

Documents available upon request:

- Town's ADA Report
- Architectural Access Board variance report