



Marblehead Disabilities Commission

Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2023

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Dee Cuffe, Brigitte Duffy, Amy Hirschcron (*remote*), Samantha Marino (*remote*), Andrea Mountain (*remote*)

Members Absent: Cheryl LaLonde, Ed Lang, Katie Farrell

Guests Present: Nancy Powell, Kyle Wiley

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

1. New Member Introduction. The Commission welcomes Brigitte Duffy as its newest member.
2. Re-Appointments. Over the next month, Ms. Hirschcron and Ms. Blaisdell will each be sworn in for an additional 3-year term for the Commission.
3. Discussion of May Minutes. As Ms. Marino was absent from the last meeting and unable to take minutes, Ms. Blaisdell will compile her notes, and create the minutes to be submitted for approval during the next Commission meeting.
4. Devereux Repairs. Ms. Blaisdell reported that she followed up with Ms. Kyle Wiley to inquire about whose responsibility the repairs would be to the ramp at the Devereux Beach restaurant, as it is in total disrepair. It was found that the repairs would be under the responsibility of the restaurant owner. Ms. Blaisdell will follow-up on Ms. Wiley's forthcoming communication with the restaurant owner in regard to repair recommendations.

The pavilion at Devereux additionally presents with an accessibility issue as it the step/lip is too high. Ms. Blaisdell spoke with Mr. Peter James of Parks and Rec, who explained that a ramp will be built to increase accessibility to this area.

5. Bathroom Near Harbormaster - As noted in prior meetings, Ms. Hirschcron noted an issue with accessibility into the bathroom, as the door swings outwards. In speaking with the Harbormaster, Ms. Hirschcron was informed that the consultant from the Collins Institute assessed this building this past winter during the town-wide assessment process, and recommendations for increasing accessibility to this restroom will be in their forthcoming report. Talk of a potential grant covering the recommended updates was discussed.

It was noted by Ms. Blaisdell that currently, these bathrooms are not available for use, as a pipe burst/vandalism occurred. Ms. Blaisdell will speak with the Harbormaster about placing a handicap accessible porta potty near the docks for the time being, while repairs are being made.

5. Accessibility for Town Meeting. Massachusetts Office on Disability sent a memorandum in which Commission members will review thoroughly to ensure that the Town is in compliance. Ms.



Marblehead Disabilities Commission

Mountain will link this memorandum to the Commission website for community members. Ms. Hirschcron recommended to publicize these accommodations prior to next year's town meeting (e.g., social media, newspaper article), during next year's March Commission meeting.

6. HP Signage for Abbott Hall. Ms. Hirschcron found that the handicap accessibility sign denoting an accessible entrance was located at the top of the stairs in the rear of the building, requiring individuals to have climbed the stairs to read it. No handicap symbol was displayed either. Ms. Wiley, town clerk, was informed and has since ordered three new handicap signs.

7. Accessible Van. Former member, Rich Ramos' newly purchased accessible van is available should someone be interested in purchasing the vehicle. The Commission will spread the word, with inquiries being directed to either Rich Ramos' sister or Ms. Blaisdell.

8. Rail Trail Upgrades. Ms. Blaisdell completed a check-in site visit to the newly renovated rail trail. As was discussed, the trail now has stone dust with pavement, making it more accessible to those with mobility limitations.

9. Treasury Account. Ms. Blaisdell will be obtaining an update soon as to what is currently in the Commission's account (as acquired from handicap parking violations). Update will be forthcoming.

The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 13th, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Marino, Secretary and Commission Member

Approved by unanimous vote of the Commission: _____

Appendix:

Documents available upon request:

- Massachusetts Office on Disability Memorandum: Reasonable Accommodations at Town Meetings