

Minutes  
Brookline Commission on Disability  
Variance Review Subcommittee  
Thursday Apr 16 2020  
11:00 AM to 12:15 PM  
This meeting took place virtually due to COVID-19 pandemic

Attendees: Saralynn Allaire Rob Heist, Jim Miczek, Sarah Kaplan, Webex Host

The Brookline Commission on Disability reviewed a variance application filed by Paul Moan on April 9th 2020. on behalf of Utile architects and the Park School in Brookline. The application requests relief from 521 CMR section 12.2.2 (c), and regards knee clearance at an art room sink. The school would like to install a sink in an art classroom which would be used to clean materials and soak art materials such as reeds and clay. The sink requested is 10 inches deep. Because of the depth of the sink and the maximum 34 in height of the counter, there would only be 24 ins. of knee clearance instead of the required 27ins. They are asking for a variance from supplying a compliant sink.

Subcommittee members found numerous examples of ADA Compliant slop (utility) sinks on the internet. There also was concern about why four faucets were necessary for the sink, which is very long. The application says the sink is to be used by a teacher. But the number of faucets suggest that it will be used by multiple people at once, and this raises the question of whether students will also be using the sink.

The subcommittee voted unanimously to suggest that the Architectural Access Board request that the architect look further into ADA-compliant slop sinks to see if there is one that could meet the needs of the school, as well as any person who would need to sit under the sink to use it. Also, it is suggested that the Board ask the architect to explain why four faucets are needed, or if multiple people will actually be using the sink at the same time. If the latter is the case, the provision of 2 sinks should be suggested, one that is ADA Compliant.