

Minutes

Brookline Commission on Disability Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday April 18, 2019

6:00 to 7:30 PM

Town Hall, Room 308

Members present: Saralynn Allaire, Myra Berloff, Ben Franco, Rob Heist, Jim Miczek (by phone), Elaine Ober, Henry Winkelman; Cindy Lee, Transportation Board Liaison

Members unable to attend: Joan Mahone, Ann Kamensky, Sarah Kaplan, Ex Officio

Meeting commenced at 6:05 PM; led by Chair, Saralynn Allaire

Introductions/Public comments

There were no Guests or Public Comments at this meeting

BCOD procedural matters

Identification of note taker

Key points: A long discussion ensued regarding the function of taking notes at meetings. The Members agreed that the Town's staff person who supports the Commission on Disability should be the notetaker for the Commission meetings, much in the same way that those Commissions that have Town staff as support at their meetings are supported by those staff to take their notes.

Actions: Saralynn & Jim will speak with Lloyd

Update on Variance Review Subcommittee formation

Key points: In an effort to better address all the issues that are brought to the Commission every month, it was determined that a separate AAB Variance Review Subcommittee be established that would allow for variance review to take place outside of the monthly meeting with reports then being made to the full Commission. It was determined that the Variance Review subcommittee must operate under the Open Meeting law and therefore meetings must be posted in advance and open to the public. Discussion ensued regarding the authority the full Commission should allocate to this subcommittee.

Actions: The Variance Subcommittee will consist of Rob Heist, Saralynn Allaire, Jim Miczek and Myra Berloff

Motions: Saralynn motioned that since there is often a limited amount of time to get responses back to the Architectural Access Board, and since the responses are often due before the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting, that the Commission on Disability give the Variance Review Subcommittee full authority to report back to the AAB recommendations on a variance request, and that the Subcommittee will report back to the full Commission its determinations at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting. Seconded by Henry Winkelman.

Voted in favor by: Saralynn Allaire, Myra Berloff, Ben Franco, Rob Heist, Jim Miczek (by phone), Elaine Ober, Henry Winkelman

Length of regular monthly meetings: Currently Commission meetings are scheduled to take place from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM. However recently there has been more work to do than time has allowed.

Key points: Variance requests have now been moved to a subcommittee but more time still needs to be allowed for regular monthly Commission meetings.

Actions: The time for the meetings has been extended from 1.5 hours to 1.75 hours. Meetings will now run from 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM. This will be a trial and can be changed, if necessary.

Review of Mar 21 minutes: Approved as amended

Amendments: Consisted only of typographical corrections

Variations

Address: 21 Longwood Avenue - Dental practice

Key points: Question 1) Can a railing be required at the main entrance to protect someone from falling off the platform at the entrance, and 2) Can the accessible parking space in the parking lot be relocated to where the standard parking spaces are rather than as a parallel parking space against the building which results in the car door near the building being obstructed.

Actions: Referred to the Variance Review Subcommittee

Old business

Achieving effective communication for people with disabilities at Town Meeting sessions:

Tips for Effective PPT Presentations

Key points: The Town needs a comprehensive plan for providing effective communication for all Town meetings.

Actions: Elaine will work with the Town's ADA Coordinator to develop an outline that will provide an overview as to how to implement effective communication. A meeting will be requested with the Town Meeting Moderator, the Town Clerk, a member of the Board of Selectmen, an IT Department Representative and the Town Counsel to discuss the Town's obligations and how to implement requests for Reasonable Accommodation. Proposed ban on all curbside parking on eastbound side of lower Beacon St. during AM commute

Key points: Trial delayed until summer

Actions: Continue to monitor

Audible pedestrian signals

Key points: Pedestrian Advisory Committee addressing this

Actions: Continue to monitor

Development surveillance: Schools, Waldo St., 1299 Beacon St.

Key points: Commission will continue to monitor developments in Town to monitor accessibility

Update from ADA Coordinator - ADA Coordinator was unable to attend the meeting Saralynn gave a brief report from the Coordinator.

Update on materials for BCOD website

Map of HP spaces: intern being sought for help with this

Video of how to guide people with blindness

Key points: Saralynn reported that Sarah informed her that MCB did not have a video showing how to guide a person who is blind. Ben was able to find examples of this kind of video on-line.

Action: Saralynn will ask Sarah to investigate other resources.

Follow-up on Harvard St. tree removal

Key points: Members reviewed a draft of a letter to the Tree Warden. It was determined this draft needs revised, as it seeks removal of all 3 offending trees. One side of the street needs to be accessible. The space beside the tree next to the playground is least accessible due to width restriction and tree roots.

Actions: Saralynn will work with Sarah on a new draft

“No Bicycle Parking” to HP Parking Signs:

Action: Asked that Sarah follow up with Tod Kirrane to see when these signs will be attached.

New business

Scooter drop off problems

Key points: Discussion ensued regarding scooters blocking the sidewalk. It seems there have been many reports of this.

Actions: As of this time, the only thing that can happen is for an individual to call the Town and report this.

Letters to Governor Baker and Diane Symonds, Commissioner for MA Div. of Professional Licensure, on selection of AAB Director

Key points: Due to the death of Tom Hopkins, the Architectural Access Board is without an Executive Director.

Actions: Saralynn drafted a letter on behalf of the Commission supporting the work the Architectural Access Board, explaining the impact of the Board on the lives of people with disabilities, and underscoring the need to have members of the AAB as the majority of the search committee that is charged with reviewing applicants for the AAB Executive Director position. The letter is to be sent to the Governor and the Commissioner of the Division of Professional Licensure.

Motions: Saralynn made a motion to send this letter, seconded by Myra. Motion carried with those voting in favor: Saralynn Allaire, Myra Berloff, Rob Heist, Elaine Ober, Henry Winkelman. Jim Miczek abstained

Announcements: A meeting will take place on April 29 at the Coolidge Corner Library - "The ADA & Fair Housing, What are your rights?"

Date for next meeting: May 22, 2019

Meeting ended at: 7:45 PM