

## Minutes

### Brookline Commission on Disability

Monday, May 11, 2020, 5:30 PM – 7:15 PM

Held via WebEx due to COVID-19

Public Link:

<https://brooklinema.webex.com/brooklinema/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8e4323427e18ac6760343070d67ae7a8>

**Members in Attendance (Virtually):** Saralynn Allaire, Chair; Jim Miczek, Deputy Chair; Elaine Ober; Henry Winkelman; Rob Heist; Joan Mahon; Ann Kamensky; Nancy Moore, Transportation Board Liaison

Members absent: Ben Franco, Select Board Member

**Note taker:** Sarah Kaplan, Community Relation Specialist – Ex. Officio

**Members of the Public in Attendance:** Tina Kurys; Jim Lee

Meeting commenced at 5:43 PM.

### Review of BCOD Meeting Minutes from February 12, 2020 and April 1, 2020:

- **February 12, 2020 Minutes:** Minor amendments to minutes proposed. Henry motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Elaine seconded. Rob, Ann, Joan, Saralynn, and Jim all voted in support of accepting the minutes as amended.
- **April 1, 2020 Minutes:** Edits regarding Commission's discussion of the Garvanta-Evac-Trac Stair Climber. Commission remembered voting in favor of it's purchase, but the ADA Coordinator did not recall such a vote being on the recording, although the notes do record an extensive discussion. Henry motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Jim seconded. Rob, Ann, Joan, Saralynn, and Elaine all voted in support of accepting the minutes as amended.
  - It was decided to record a vote during this meeting just in case. Henry, Ann, Rob, Elaine, Saralynn, Joan, Jim all voted in favor of the Garvanta-Evac-Trac Stair Climber at this time.

## **New business**

### **Review and vote on MBTA accommodations for July shut down of C Green line**

Saralynn presented information to the group regarding the July shut down of the Green Line (C). The proposal that is being put before the Transportation Board is as follows:

- Replace 13,200 feet of track on the C Branch between Cleveland Circle to Kenmore
- Construct full-depth rubber panel roadway crossings at Charles Street, Pleasant Street, Harvard Avenue, Centre Street, Dean Road/Corey Road, Strathmore Road, and Ayr Road
- Construct accessible rubber panel pedestrian only crossings at: Cleveland Circle Station and three locations at Tappan Road Station

During construction, from July 5 - August 1, 2020 free shuttle buses will operate along Beacon Street on the same schedule as train service. Shuttles (Yankee coaches) may be provided, and all shuttles are supposed to be accessible. In addition, three accessible vans will complement shuttles to better address the needs of people with mobility limitations. All T stops, except for Kent Street are proposed for coverage.

In the Commission's discussion of the proposal, it was discussed that the elimination of the Kent St. stop would be a problem due to its proximity to a doctor's office at 1180 Beacon St. The Yankee Coaches are also technically accessible but also the first step is very high and difficult for some people with disabilities and seniors. In addition, the members discussed concern with the crossing at Charles Street and Beacon Street, hazardous in general but especially for people who are blind or have low vision.

Saralynn proposed that the Commission suggest that a stepstool be added to the Yankee Coaches to increase accessibility, that Kent St. be added to the list of shuttle stops and that the unsafe crossing at Charles and Beacon be eliminated. Henry made a motion in support of these suggestions being sent to GTL and the Transportation Board. Joan seconded. Saralynn, Jim, Elaine, Ann, and Rob all voted in favor.

Action: Saralynn will send a message to Dino DiFronzo at GTL and the Transportation Board regarding the Commission's vote and suggestions.

### **Review of use of CART at annual Town meeting June 23, 24, 25 and 30**

The Commission discussed using the HP Fine Fund to pay for CART services for June's Town Meeting. The ADA Coordinator called MCDHH and confirmed that CART

services cost \$100-\$125 per hour (providers are freelancers and set their own rate). Saralynn estimated that Town Meeting in total is about 14 hours. The Commission agreed to pay for all hours needed. Joan made a motion in support of paying for CART with money from the HP Fine Fund. Henry seconded. Saralynn, Jim, Elaine, Ann, and Rob all voted in favor.

**ADA Update:**

- None. The ADA Coordinator has received no complaints in the last few weeks related to access. She is currently working much of the time with the COVID-19 Task Force as part of the non-medical email and call response team.

**Announcements:**

- **CODA Calls:** Saralynn has been attending the monthly CODA calls with other CODs hosted by the Disability Policy Consortium. One of the things that they are focused on is PCA issues (lack of coverage, need for overtime) due to COVID-19.

**Next meeting:**

**Wednesday, June 10, 2020** via WebEx (tentative)