

Minutes

Brookline Commission on Disability Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday May 22, 2019

,6:00 to 7:45 PM

Town Hall, Room 308

Meeting commenced at 6:02PM; led by Chair, Saralynn Allaire

Identification of Note Taker: *Henry Winkelman*

Members present: Saralynn Allaire, Myra Berloff, Ben Franco, Rob Heist, Ann Kamensky, Henry Winkelman; Sarah Kaplan, Ex Officio; Cindy Lee, Transportation Board Liaison. Members unable to attend: Joan Mahone, Jim Miczek, Elaine Ober

Introductions/Public comments

Guest names: *No guests present*

Review Apr 19 meeting minutes

Amendments:

- *Meeting times should be extended as a 6 month trial*
- *Redline changes.*

Motion to approve as amended by Henry Winkelman.

Vote: Yes – 6 No – 0 Abstain:

Variances

Review and approval of Variance Review Subcommittee assessment of 808 Comm. Ave. application

Key points

The Chair began the discussion – Boston University (BU) requests 3 Variances for a property at 808 Comm. Ave. This historic building was originally a car dealership at the turn of the 20th century. It is at the corner of Comm. Ave and the BU Bridge.

The first 2 variances requested regard the 4 stairwells (one in each of the buildings 4 corners) that need to be improved.

Variance #1 -- Existing marble stair treads have mild to moderate wear and rectangular “tread edges”; the subcommittee recommended to the AAB that the tread edges be modified by the addition of material under the edge to reduce the chance of feet being caught on the edges

Variance #2 -- The handrails do not have extensions, and some inner handrails are not continuous, being interrupted by newel posts; the subcommittee recommended that remediation be provided to allow continuous use of handrails around the newel posts.

Variance #3 – On the 5th level, the issue is the dimensions of 2 single person bathrooms. The rooms were 1” short in one direction and 2” short in the other direction; there was room for a 5’ turnaround within both rooms, and the subcommittee thought this was acceptable.

Actions

Members agreed with the assessments of the subcommittee, although it was noted that the AAB may find the suggestions unnecessary. It was thought that no vote was required, since the report had already been submitted to AAB.

Submit complaint about 21 Longwood dental practice?

Key points: concerns about the following had been expressed:

#1 – Ramp entrance does not provide handrail.

#2 – Handicap parking space location is inconvenient

Actions: It was decided that *BCOD cannot go forward on a complaint, since*

#1 – Ramp railing is not required by ADA.

#2 – Handicap Parking space has parallel orientation, not face-in, but this is allowable.

Old business

Update on achieving effective communication at Town Meeting sessions and other public Town meetings

Report

The Chair, Ms. Kaplan and Ms. Ober met to focus on the issue of effective communication at Town events. The group decided what areas needed to be covered.

Action: Ms. Kaplan and Ms. Ober will meet over the next 2 months to assemble a list of relevant accommodations that could be provided and present the information at the July BCOD meeting.

Also, there was sound interference with the assistive listening devices at the first Town meeting session. IT will get another cord that should correct the problem.

Action: No action, as IT is working to resolve. Will try again at Thursday’s Town Meeting session.

SPECIAL NOTE: Ms. Berloff stated that this should be a priority for the IT Dept.

School building surveillance

Update on outdoor stairwell beside HS addition

Report

Concerns have been expressed to the HS design planning committee by Myra and a citizen architect about inequitable public access along the Tappan St. side of the proposed new HS building. The inequity is created by the HS design

Actions

The Chair will contact Selectperson Nancy Heller to discuss.

Status of other projects

News re: Waldo-Durgin and/or 1299 Beacon St.

The Waldo-Durgin Garage/1299 Beacon Street Warrant Article is to be voted on at Town Meeting on Thursday. Surveillance will be needed if the project is approved.

Actions – none needed

Map of HP spaces update – intern?

Report

Ms. Kaplan reported that an intern will work on the project of mapping the locations of HP spaces in Town this summer. Ms. Kaplan expects IT will hire the intern soon, but has no control in the process.

Actions - none

Video of how to guide persons with blindness update

Report

Research performed thus far has been unable to locate an educational video showing how to guide a blind person.

Actions

Ms. Kamensky will look at the Understanding Our Differences material she has and see if they contain an appropriate video.

Harvard Ave. sidewalk access - Review and approve letter from BCOD to Town Arborist

Report

There is an issue with 2 trees limiting access on Harvard Ave. The path of travel is obstructed by the trees and their roots. This condition actually occurs on both sides of Harvard Ave. in this block.

While the BCOD can anticipate some calls to just protect the best interests of the trees, this issue must remain focused on ensuring safe travel for people of all levels of ability.

Actions

The letter draft was reviewed. The letter recommended that one side of the street be made accessible by one of 3 possible actions. The 1st two actions were tree removal, and the 3rd was to create a bump out around one of the trees. Given resistance to tree removal, members decided that the bump out action become the first recommendation.

Motion

The Chair moved that an amended letter be sent to Tom Brady, Andrew Pappastergion and Hugh Mattison. Ms. Berloff seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Installation of signs prohibiting bicycle attachment to HP sign posts update

Report

Todd Kirrane stated that these signs are currently being installed. Sarah will ask Todd to inform the BCOD when they are running low on signs.

Scooter update

Report

Pilot will continue until mid-November.

Actions none

Update from ADA Coordinator

Report on fair housing event and availability of presenter's slide

Other: Ms. Kaplan asked if there is a 3rd day of Town Meeting, would anyone be able to cover for her in providing assistive listening devices there. Ms. Kamensky offered to cover for Ms. Kaplan, if needed.

New business

Update on appointment of AAB Director/other advocacy

Report – a hiring committee has been formed with 2 AAB members on it

Other - None

Announcements – Caitlin to present updated ADA transition plan at July BCOD meeting

Disability Summit will be held September 27, 2019 by MOD

Relevant Town Meeting articles

Report: Not discussed

US Access Board Webinar June 6, 2019

Date for next meeting -Thursday June 20?

Action: Saralynn will survey members re: date

Meeting ended at 7:32PM.