

Minutes

Brookline Commission on Disability Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday Jun 19, 2019

6:00 to 7:45 PM

Town Hall, Room 308

Meeting commenced at ____6:05____ PM; led by Chair, Saralynn Allaire

Identification of Note Taker – Cindy Lee

Members present: Saralynn Allaire, Rob Heist, Ann Kamensky, Jim Miczek, Henry Winkelman; Sarah Kaplan, Ex Officio; Cindy Lee, Transportation Board Liaison

Members unable to attend: Myra Berloff, Ben Franco, Joan Mahone, Elaine Ober

Introductions/Public comments

Guest names____Tina Kurys and Deb Sue Klein _____

Key points of any comments: Tina liked the BOSMA sighted guide video (from Indiana based organization).

Sighted (human) guide video as resource on BCOD website

Discussion: The BCOD would like to post a 'how to help a vision impaired individual' to the Town's website then have list it on the TMM site as well, so that any individual will be familiar on how to help a sight impaired individual at Town meetings, etc.

Three videos reviewed showed some commonsense things to do: asking and extending your elbow to the person you're assisting and letting them feel for your elbow, then run their hand along your forearm to objects like a table so you can guide them.

It was decided that the BCOD would try to make their own video with the help of BIG (Brookline Interactive Group). The video would only have to be basic and simple – asking the individual if they would like assistance, how to offer your elbow & how to walk with them so you're not pushing the individual but rather leading them. Henry will search the web for videos for more information and ideas on how to properly help someone. Both Henry and Ann volunteered to help do the video and will use Tina Kurys as a reference. They will both ask if BIG will do the recording of the video for BCOD – either Henry or Ann will contact them. As I believe that Ann has dealt with BIG before.

Action: Subcommittee formed.

Review May 22 meeting minutes

Amendments: original minutes edited by Saralynn

Motion to approve (as amended) by Rob Heist with Henry Winkelman.
seconding_____

Vote: Yes__4_____No_____Abstain__Jim as he was not at the last meeting _____

Variances: AAB Decisions

Tappan St Gym/pool – back note – BCOD suggested better inclusive seating around the pool – BCOD suggestions were accepted and worked into the new plans for the Pool

Discussion: Saralynn updated the Board that our suggestions were worked into the new plans

BU Howard Thurman Ctr, 808 Comm Ave

AAB hearing Mon Jul 15 at 1:00 PM – Saralynn Allaire to attend on the BCOD behalf. The meeting will be at One Ashburton Place and BU will be in attendance as well.

Discussion: Background: 5 story building being remodeled for events. There are 2 elevators 1 goes to floor 1 & 2 with elevator 2 has access to the 5 floors in the building. One elevator was a maintenance one, but BU is making it accessible to all (public service elevator). Not sure why the hearing was called, but it may be that the AAB may not agree with the request for the variance.

Action: Saralynn Allaire to attend the meeting and any other Board members welcomed

Old Business

9-1-1 disability form: Background – this 911 form has been a work in progress for 2 years, but Rob feels that it was pushed aside for awhile due to Town staff changes. During the process Rob & other subcommittee members worked and reviewed the form for input.

Report: Rob reported that he recently received the final form but overall did not have any final input on the form. The suggestions made by him on the Board's behalf does not appear to have been incorporated in the final form to be used.

Actions: Rob is ok with the form, but Jim and Joan should review the form and send any feedback to Rob. Rob will talk to Cheryl Schneider and see if the MOD will do a joint seminar in emergency service training. BCOD should promote the use of this form at the Senior Center and the local newspaper (TAB). Rob told the Board that the Senior Center has a book that they put all types of useful information in for the seniors to use as reference.

Action: Subcommittee formed to promote the use of this form – Rob, Jim, Joan and Henry

Mapping of HP spaces

Report: Sarah Kaplan obtained a map of the HP spots in Brookline, but the map was not up to date as some HP spaces was not included and she was told they would have to be manually put into the mapping system. Board discuss if there was any way to make the HP spots stick out on the map.

Ann wanted to know how someone found a parking space in Town, it was discussed that there is a link on the Town's website that directs people to places to park. Unfortunately, Ann looked, and the link was not easily found.

Side note: The Webster St. parking lot will be getting a HP spot.

Actions: Sarah Kaplan to send an email asking if the HP spots in Town could be more prominent on the map.

Our guest, Deb Sue Klien (?) asked why in the parking lots that allow overnight parking does not have any overnight HP available. She explained that the Center St lot (example) has sign stating overnight parking spot with permit but there are no HP spots that allow overnight parking with a permit.

Action: Sarah Kaplan to look into this and let us know.

Update on new high school design, Tappan St. side access

Report: Saralynn Allaire is working with Nancy Heller (Select Board Member) to solve the access on Tappan to Cypress issue. The current plans calls for a covered set of stairs on the Tappan side (near the High Schools new addition) which protects an individual during inclement weather – the unfairness is that a person with a disability would have problems negotiating the stairs and someone who uses a wheel chair would have to guide themselves down the hill at Tappan and Cypress in order to get the Brookline Hills T, etc. Stop. Nancy's initial reaction was to close off the stairs to public use and only allow the student to use the stairs but whereas the stairs on public property this limited access is not acceptable to the BCOD.

Actions: Saralynn will monitor this situation as she has been in contact with Nancy on this matter. We have voiced our input and must wait until September for further action on this matter.

E scooter pilot update: Cindy Lee gave an update on the public meeting held on June 12, 2019. Cindy informed us that Heather Hamilton Select Board, Chris Dempsey Chair of the Transportation Board, Todd Kirrane Transportation Board Administrator, Police Supervisor and representatives from Lime and Bird was in attendance.

Report: Cindy explained that about 40 people were in attendance and maybe 5 to 6 people were in favor of the scooters. Most notably David Trevett, Chair of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee stated he wants to see the scooters treated like bikes and be allowed on the sidewalks in non-commercial areas in Brookline. He further commented that they need to incorporate the scooters into Brookline, but he has no idea of how to do this smoothly. Cindy mentioned that most individuals that were older were not in favor of the e scooters. Many residents spoke that they no longer feel safe walking in Brookline, and they moved to Brookline to be able to walk around. They are very uncomfortable walking now and do not want the scooters in Brookline. The people who use the scooters do not abide by any rules of the road and are on the sidewalks consistently. People complained the scooters were just left anywhere – blocking crosswalks, sidewalks, doors and lying down across the sidewalk. One woman stated she is visionally impaired and now cannot walk outside because her walking cane will not pick up that a scooter is lying down on the sidewalk. Cindy mentioned she attended the meeting as a resident and was not representing the TB. Cindy also discussed two situations where a scooter was left in the HP spot needed by her family.

Action: none taken as where this was not really needed

Update on addition of HP space to Webster St. lot

Report: The HP spot will be added in the fall per Todd Kirrane

Advocacy update

Report: Saralynn informed the Board they are still looking to get as many letters into the Governor about selecting the correct person for the position. Someone with a background / advocacy for the disabled.

Action: none taken but get the word out there

Update from ADA Coordinator: Sarah Kaplan:

- 1) Asked if the BCOD wanted to have a table at Brookline ADA Day on July 26, 2019 between 4:30 to 7:30 pm held at the Brookline Ave Playground 575 Brookline Ave behind the Lynch Center. No one was able to do it.
** decided to have the Town tweet about the event to get the news out
- 2) There may be a note taker for the July meeting, but the date of our meeting may not fit into the woman's schedule and Sarah Kaplan will look for someone else for the Commission.
- 3) A resident voiced a complaint to Sarah Kaplan about the Coolidge Corner Post Office front door that does not have an automatic door opening button. The door is rather heavy and this
- 4) individual needs assistance. Per Sarah, the Post Office is not required by ADA to have an automatic door opener. The individual was told by the Coolidge Corner PO to use the Brookline Village Post Office since they have an automatic door opener, but this is not feasible as the resident lives in Coolidge Corner.
***It was left that Sarah Kaplan will contact the Coolidge Corner PO on a monthly basis x 3 to try to get action, but if no action, will inform the individual that the PO is not required under any ADA guideline to install an automatic door button.

New business

Meeting in August?

Decision: No August meeting

Participation in Brookline Day?

Decision Saralynn will probably attend

Announcements - none

Date for next meeting -Thursday July 18? TBD – Saralynn to email the group

Meeting ended at _____ 7:45 _____ PM