

Town of Dedham Commission on Disability Meeting

August 19, 2019 Town Hall First Floor Conference Room – 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Tricia Whitehouse, Diane Loud, John Tocci, Bob Winston, Mac Sterling, Vicky Berg (via phone), Bernie Chirokas, Ellen Conway

Absent: Ken Cimeno

John Tocci chaired the meeting.

July 2019 minutes were not yet submitted, and will be reviewed and voted upon at the September meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Deferred until September meeting.

Handicapped Parking issues at Dedham Middle School

- The 2 new HP spaces have been created and painted with the new logo, signs have been erected, and a crosswalk painted from the existing ramp to the school's main entrance. This is a temporary measure but will last the 2019-2020 school year.
- The Planning Board and Conservation Commission need to review the long-term plans, as there is green space being cut away.

Eagle Scout HP logo painting project

- No updates from Joe Flanagan or the Eagle Scout on the status of this. Parking spaces have not been painted with the new logo.

Accessibility Best Practices:

John spoke with Jeff Duggan regarding the Accessibility Best Practices that we would like to plan for to strengthen future grant applications. The Best Practices website is extremely confusing and we do not have a passcode for the application. Jeff sent John some samples of what other towns had submitted.

- John and possibly Ken will go to the Select Board to explain the process and that it will be a low effort/high yield endeavor for Dedham.

Municipal ADA grant:

John has drafted an application for the next funding cycle, for us to apply for funding to upgrade the Riverdale playground. Some minor edits were suggested, and the following was discussed:

- The grant no longer requires a town match.
- At Town Meeting, \$100k was appropriated for playground upgrade, so John will ask for a grant from the state of \$180k.
- Need to look at the contractor's most recent bid to determine any changes in costs, particularly if the materials include structural steel from Canada, as this has become very expensive.

John will update the application to include suggested edits, and is trying to get on the agenda for the September 5 Select Board meeting.

Second letter to Hertz:

Ellen has drafted a reply to the Hertz General Counsel, with our follow-up questions. Will circulate and review at September meeting.

Stop & Shop bathroom issue:

Ken was to follow up on this, but Mac has not received an update. The Commission agreed that Mac should send the letter rather than waiting.

Sidewalk accessibility issues:

Mac received a complaint regarding the sidewalk in front of the Blue Bunny. There are frequently multiple items on the sidewalk in front of the store (the sheep that the store displays, a piano, chairs) and there was an incident where a man who uses a wheelchair could not get by. Bernie reports that she has had similar issues with the Blue Bunny in the past and the store employees are very responsive to feedback. There are similar issues at the Whole Foods in Legacy Place. Bernie will speak to the General Manager at Whole Foods.

Future Meetings:

September 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

October 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

November 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

December 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Loud