



Merrimac Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Meeting Date: March 3, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Remote Meeting via global.gotomeeting.com

Members Present:

Christopher Gaudet, Chairman
Robert Hart, Vice Chairman
John Joseph Murphy, Treasurer
Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary
Ann Marie Murphy, Member
Charlotte Eileen Stepanian, Member
Margaret Sullivan, Member

Members not Present:

Bob Sinibaldi, Member/ADA Compliance Officer
Anne Brown, Member
Jeffrey MacLeod, Alternate

Also Present:

Brienne Walsh, Merrimac Senior Center Director
Eric Shears, Merrimac Police Chief

Agenda Item No: 1 **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Robert Hart made a motion to accept the agenda for the March 3, 2021 meeting.

Ann Murphy seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The agenda was accepted.

Agenda Item No: 2

Approve Minutes from January 6, 2021 Meeting

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes.

Jack Murphy made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 6, 2021 meeting. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The minutes from the January 6, 2021 meeting are accepted.

Agenda Item No: 3

Approve Minutes from February 3, 2021 Meeting

Commission on Disabilities members considered the minutes.

Jack Murphy made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 3, 2021 meeting. Robert Hart seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion. The minutes from the February 3, 2021 meeting are accepted.

Agenda Item No: 4

6:30 Appointment with Police Chief Eric Shears to discuss parking on sidewalks

COD members discussed concerns with the parking on sidewalks in town. Members wonder how to keep sidewalks clear. Parking a vehicle of any sort on a sidewalk is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and of the town by-laws. Chief Shears explained that if the Police Department receives a complaint, they will investigate and ask the owner to move the vehicle. If there is no response to the request to move the vehicle, the police will issue a citation. Sometimes on old sidewalks, it is not clear to residents that they are parking on a sidewalk. The Police Department is happy to partner with the COD to enforce the regulations. COD will provide some educational information for police to share with town residents to increase awareness of ADA.

The COD also discussed with Chief Sears that the DPW is not able to get equipment on the sidewalks right now because they are in such poor shape. Snow removal is an issue that is ongoing in town and the Police Department is addressing the problem of plow contractors putting snow on public roads and sidewalks. Officers on duty will take note of sidewalk issues and COD members are welcome to notify police when they see issues.

Agenda Item No: 5

40B Project proposed on West Main Street

At the last Selectmen's meeting, a 188 unit development was proposed to be built near Kenoza Vending. Five of the units will be handicap accessible. COD members wonder if all the units are wheelchair accessible and to what extent. COD members will monitor the project to ensure they have plans for push button power door openers and other accessible features.

Agenda Item No: 6
Shared Streets Grant Update

Grant applicants are still waiting to hear if they qualify for Shared Streets Grant. Christopher Gaudet has a locus map from Stantec which will be shared with members. Hopefully, COD will hear about the grant by the end of March.

Agenda Item No: 7
45K request to finance committee for DPW to be used for sidewalks update

Christopher Gaudet attended a meeting last week to discuss the funding and will meet Thursday with the Capital Planning Board for approval.

Agenda Item No: 8
20K Earmark Update

COD is waiting for reimbursement to go back into the Cares Act Fund. Cares Act will not approve funding for curb cuts but can be used to fund Town Hall ramp and power door openers. Funds probably will not be released until the end of the year.

Agenda Item No: 9
Institute for Human Centered Design Contract Update

Contracts have been signed and reviewed. A kick off meeting with town department heads will be scheduled. They will want to share a presentation with COD and department heads of all departments that will be impacted.

Additional Discussion:

Brienne Walsh discussed the situation she encountered when there was a power outage recently. If the Council on Aging had a generator, the Senior Center could have been used as a shelter for people impacted by the power outage. COD will explore what is needed to set up an emergency shelter at the next meeting.

Agenda Item No: 10
Adjourn

Next Meeting: April 7, 2021 at 6:30 REMOTELY on GoTo Meeting.

Eillen Stepanian made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Jack Murphy seconded the motion. Members unanimously accepted the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

Article V Sidewalks and Highways
Article XIV Violations of Town By-Laws
521 CMR: Architectural Access Board 521CMR 22.00and 521 CMR 2.0

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

Chairman Signature:

Vice Chairman Signature:

Secretary Signature: