



Town of Hudson
Commission on Disabilities
78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749
Tel: (978) 562-2948
Email: phelinek@townofhudson.org

Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2023

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 extending the remote meeting provisions of March 12, 2020, Executive Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, this meeting of the Hudson Commission on Disabilities was conducted via remote participation.

Meeting was called to order by Andrea Erickson
Roll Call: Andrea Erickson (Chair), George Luoto, Ron Sorgman
Staff: Pam Helinek
Members of the Public: Frank Noyes

DPW Steering Committee

Frank Noyes reported that he had attended the first meeting of the Steering Committee. The project has already gone out to bid and the Steering Committee's work will start when the contractor has been hired and construction is ready to start, hopefully in the spring of 2024. Frank reported a concern that there are no plans for an elevator and therefore storage space on the second floor of the proposed building will not be accessible. The Commission agreed that Frank should reach out the DPW for clarification on this issue and discuss the case where a handicapped employee might need to access that floor.

ADA Transition Plan Implementation

Pam Helinek has provided an email introduction to Len Belli, the returning Facilities Director for the schools, to Andrea and Ron. Len Belli asked for the Commissioners to edit the ADA Transition Plan and mark what has already been completed. Frank Noyes said that he knew the handicapped parking issues had not been addressed, and wasn't sure about braille signage, but that the Commissioners had not had access to the inside of the schools and would need Len's help in updating the list. Andrea Erickson said she would email Len to initiate further conversation.

Community Concerns

George Luoto expressed concern that the plan for new bleachers at Morgan Bowl, which has been submitted to the Community Preservation Commission, has the handicapped section of the bleachers at the furthest point from the parking lot, and that these bleachers would be very difficult to access in a wheelchair. George represents the Commission on Disabilities at CPC, and will bring up this concern at the meeting Wednesday night.

Frank Noyes brought up a complaint from a Marlborough resident about the lack of staff at the Walmart registers, claiming that all of the registers were automated without staff available to help. Frank believes that staff is always available, and that the resident may not have known where to find the staff person.



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Outdoor Dining

Frank Noyes provided Pam Helinek with the ADA outdoor dining regulations. Pam Helinek will talk to Fernanda Santos, the licensing officer, about a list of dining establishments that have outdoor dining and find out if the ADA regulations can be sent to them this winter, so that they have time to make any corrections before they re-open outdoor dining next summer.

Minutes

Andrea Erickson moved to approve the minutes from October 17, 2023. Vote 3-0-0.

Other Business

The Commission agreed on meeting every second Tuesday in 2024 at 1:00PM. Pam Helinek will submit a schedule to the Town Clerk to be included on the Town Calendar. The next meeting will be January 9, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment

Andrea Erickson moved to adjourn the meeting, vote 3-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 PM.