

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
Whipple Senior Center
182 Green Street, Room 12
Weymouth, MA
January 9, 2019**

Minutes

PRESENT:

Hank Goldman, Chairman
Lisa Jennings
Linda Sera

NOT PRESENT:

John MacLeod
Richard Johnson
Ron Evans

ALSO PRESENT:

Sue McDonough, ADA Coordinator
Carolyn LaCroix

Chairman Goldman called the meeting of the Commission on Disabilities to order at 7:00PM.

ADA REPORT

WESSAGUSSET BEACH CONNECTION

Ms. McDonough stated she recently attended a Wessagusset Beach Connection meeting where many changes were requested through Conservation Commission. The project is still in planning; once an agreement/decision is made it will be reported. This year is planning and permitting.

Ms. Jennings stated if you cannot document what was spoken at the meeting and advise COD on what is being discussed regarding ADA then don't report anything.

Ms. Jennings asked to table discussion of the balance of the ADA Coordinator's Report until another time.

Ms. McDonough stated the Housing Production Plan includes zoning to develop more affordable housing. Ms. Jennings asked Ms. McDonough to find out if Ms. Kudcey intends the HPP to make affordable housing instead of Section 8. Ms. McDonough will find out and report back to COD.

Chairman Goldman stated he has emailed the stop sign with the hand to John MacLeod along with his note about the standing issues at the high school. The email reads as follows:

Hi John,

RECEIVED
TOWN OF WEYMOUTH
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2019 MAY 10 AM 8:43

I apologize for taking so long to send this email as requested at the October COD meeting.

There were two remaining concerns discussed in October

- 1. Accessibility through the Core Connector when the building is open to the public – while I have not been to many meetings since October other than SC – which was never an issue – the few other meetings and events since October have always had the handicapped door unlocked and activated. It appears that this issue has now been resolved after years of it being an unresolved issue and concern.*
- 2. The signage posted at the elevators. These signs (see photo attached) appeared during the school year last year. They read “Do not ride the elevator unless you have a pass from the Health Office.” No one seems to know why, more than 10 years after the building opened, there is now a need to post signs on the elevators, but the concern is the specific wording of the signage. Access to elevators is or should be granted in IEP's and 504 Plans and requiring an additional permission from the health office seems for these students unnecessary and inappropriate. I would assume granting short term access to those with broken ankles/legs is also routinely done. The wording chosen for these signs can be confusing to those with disabilities using the building outside school hours. It also clearly identifies and potentially stigmatizes all those using the elevator as having a medical issue of some type.*

While we do not see or understand the need for such signage and would prefer they be removed we can offer some suggested change in wording which do not specifically label all those using the elevator as having a medical need or disability. Here are two suggestions:

“Students: Remember the elevator use policies”

“Authorized use only during school hours”

Also a security presentation was just made to the School Committee. The red hand is a standard sign that is part of the new school security program and is posted with varying messages throughout the school district on doors and in other areas with specific security messages. It seems somewhat confusing and inappropriate to use this same specific graphic to communicate a message that is not specifically security related and part of the school security initiative.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the COD at a meeting or to me.

Thank you,

Hank Goldman

ROUTE 53/WASHINGTON STREET (AUDIBLE CROSSING SIGNAL)

Awaiting response from Bell Traffic to see if the signal has been tested and volume increased. Officials in Weymouth were not contacted with information a visit was going to take place. Once the town receives a response they will update.

Ms. McDonough stated Owen MacDonald called today and he cannot confirm that the signal is at proper volume just yet but will report back after it has been tested.

TRAFFIC REGULATION ON PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Ordinance Committee met on 12/17 and requested additional information. Once the committee receives the information requested they will meeting on the submission and call for a public meeting.

Mr. MacDonald wants to get signs up on Phillips Street, Commercial Street and Mutton Lane but it needs to go through the Ordinance Committee first.

Chairman Goldman stated Academy Avenue should have signs up also.

OPEN SEATS ON COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Currently 2 – 3 open seats on COD.

SEPAC

This month's meeting was a presentation on 504's. The next meeting of SEPAC will be held on February 5, 2019 at Abigail Adams Library.

SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING

Ms. Jennings stated everyone should look at www.anewchapman.org which is the new middle school website. On February 9, 2019 there will be a tour of Chapman Middle School from 11:00am – 1:00pm; this will probably go for a vote in April of 2019. Getting seven (7) modular classrooms will cut 1 ½ years off the project. The town will have to redistrict but it will only have to do it once.

OLD BUSINESS

GOALS 2019

- Snow removal

NEXT MEETING

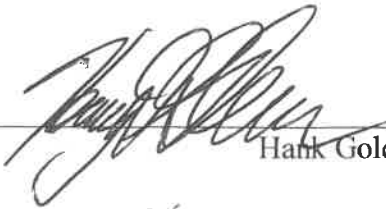
The next meeting of the Commission on Disabilities will be held on February 13, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Jennings made a MOTION to ADJOURN at 8:00PM. Ms. Sera SECONDED the MOTION.
It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Christine Malloy
Recording Secretary

Approved by:



Hank Goldman, Chairman

Dated:

3/13/19