

Andover Commission on Disability—April 28, 2021 Commission Meeting

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed the meeting was conducted virtually through Microsoft Teams at 6:37 p.m.

Present: Chair Julie Pike, Jemma Lambert, Justin Coppola, Trish Leelman, Eileen Reilly, Steve Surette, Janet Nicosia, Director of Facilities and Town ADA Coordinator, Molly Bicking, Liaison with the Council on Aging, and Ellen Townson, Liaison with the Conservation Commission

Roll call: Julie Pike, yes; Justin Coppola, yes; Jemma Lambert, yes; Steve Surette, yes; Trish Leelman, yes, Eileen Reilly, yes

Minutes: Steve made a motion to approve the March 24, 2021 minutes and Eileen seconded. Unanimously passed.

Old Business:

Julie asked Janet in her role as designated ADA coordinator for the Town, to give an overview of upcoming Town Warrant articles of interest to the Commission. Janet broke down the areas of concern into those related to the Town and those related to the Schools.

Major Town ADA items: There are a number of major capital projects such as the Historic Mill District proposal, street construction, and renovation of the “Maker Space” which is located on the ground level of the Memorial Hall Library (MHL) and which is currently not ADA compliant. There are also warrants involving sidewalk replacements and Fire and DPW equipment replacement.

Other items involving ADA compliance are such things as taking up the center aisle rug in the old Town Hall (Town House) to keep the floors smooth. In the new Town Offices, the granite steps at the front of the building and the railings will be re-configured for ADA accessibility and the interior rails up to the second floor will also be replaced.

In response to a question, Steve said that the first thing that would be renovated with regard to sidewalks, would be making sure there are ramps down to the streets.

Major School ADA items: Janet noted that there is only one passenger elevator at the High School, and this needs repair and refurbishment. The Doherty School library will have air conditioning installed, and the Sanborn Elementary School needs a new roof and repaving of parking lots.

Action Item: *Julie said that the Town Clerk has asked the commission to review these warrant articles. Janet sent Julie the draft warrants which Julie will forward to the commission so that the commission can review and vote on them.*

Spot Checks: Steve and Justin did not have anything to report.

Group Reports:

ADA Working Group Library On-site Reviews:

On behalf of the ADA group, Justin talked about the recent review of the Library with Director Barbara McNamara and her team, along with Janet, Steve, Kathleen and himself. The team made recommendations on the location of exterior access signage which will be ADA compliant. The team also reviewed the new Accessible Restrooms on the Main Level and determined that they are fully ADA compliant.

Robb (Senior) Center On-site Reviews:

Justin further noted that Jeff Dougan from the Mass. Office of Disability will be coming to assist us in reviewing facilities for ADA compliance and it seems to make sense to combine the Robb (Senior) Center, the new Campanelli Drive Facility and possibly the new BallardVale Fire Station if ready in this visit. Also, during this visit, it is anticipated that Jeff would also meet with the architect of the Robb (Senior) Center who has expressed an interest in this.

New West Elementary School ADA Planning Session

Julie then said she would invite Joel Blumstein to a zoom meeting to talk about the articles pertaining to schools and Eileen said she would be happy to hear more about the plans with Shawsheen School.

Projects: Jemma reported briefly that she has requested a summer intern from Merrimack College to begin the accessibility report card of downtown businesses. Jemma noted that the intern stipend is funded in part by ACOD.

The ACOD ADA Working Group conducted an Onsite review of Roger's Dell a "pocket park" in early April. Steve, Kathleen, Ellen Townson, and Justin comprised this group. The area is located at the junction of School Street and Lupine Road. The Group decided that they would like to explore other more appropriate sites first for ADA implementation.

Ellen noted that an alternate ADA Compliant area mid-way between town and the bottom of the hill, which would be part of the proposed Historic Mill District, could be an ADA Compliant pocket park. This area is roughly near Depot Pizza and would need to be re-designed. There are no firm plans in place regarding this option.

There was a brief discussion on the postponement of the **commission's 25th Celebration**. Jemma suggested possibly holding off any celebration until post-pandemic and that perhaps being part of the town's 375th anniversary would be an idea worth pursuing. Justin noted that Kathleen spearheaded this effort and if merging the two commemorations is one that the commission approves, further talks with Ann Ormond who is the head of the 375th should be considered.

Adjournment: Trish made a motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. and Eileen seconded. Unanimously approved.

Next meeting: *May 26, 2021 at 6.30 pm to be held virtually.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan McKelliget

Andover Commission on Disability Wednesday, March 24, 2021 @ 7:40 PM Virtual Meeting Broadcast
by line at www.andovertv.org

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Andover Commission on Disability will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner: Andover TV COMCAST CHANNEL 22 AND VERIZON CHANNEL 45 or stream online at www.andovertv.org.