



Roxann Wedegartner  
Mayor

City of  
**GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS**

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*Members:*

Lynne Kelley – Chair  
Douglas Mayo  
L'aura Jordan  
Virginia DeSorgher  
Robert Williford

**GREENFIELD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS (CDA)**

Remote Via WebEx

DRAFT Minutes of Thursday, August 12, 2021

\*\*\*1:00 p.m.\*\*\*

**Members present:**

Lynne Kelley, Chair  
Virginia “Ginny” DeSorgher  
L’aura Jordan (left at 2:00 pm)  
Douglas Mayo  
Bob Williford

**Also present:**

Lindsay Rowe, ADA Coordinator for the City of Greenfield

Ms. Kelley called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. Some technical difficulties delayed the start of the meeting. The meeting was held via the WebEx remote meeting platform.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 2021 by BW with the following corrections- correct spelling of L’aura Jordan, clarify language about “the path to the rear of the library” and “Senior center is an option for disabled individuals to access wireless if they bring their own equipment.” Seconded by VD. Minutes approved. Unanimous.

*Roll call vote*

Lynne Kelley, Chair - yes

Virginia "Ginny" DeSorgher - yes

L'aura Jordan - yes

Douglas Mayo - yes

Bob Williford - yes

**Treasurer's Report:**

City Accountant was on vacation. Will have a report next month.

**Ongoing Issues:**

**Invitation to department heads/human rights commission scheduled for September 2021**

Human Rights Commission will join for the September meeting.

Lynne reached out to MassMatch again and will be scheduled for October. They have tons of different types of items that they offer. Computer and tech related and other Activities of Daily Living options.

**Building accessibility/library**

The Library will be groundbreaking on Aug 19, 2021. Lynne is planning on being there. Doug also plans on being there.

Bob spoke with Ed Berlin and Ellen Boyer at the library to ask about how long the back entrance will be available to the public. They can't answer at this point. The General Contractor knows that they want to keep it open as long as possible and Tim Farrell is talking to Greenfield Savings Bank regarding handicap parking in their lot. The Library has the same access challenges as before the pandemic. Ginny will reach out to Tim Farrell. Recognizing the number of people who reach out to the same person, we need to



strategize and have one point person as sometimes multiple people all reaching out are too much. The committee will work on coordinating responses.

There are concerns were that there would not be handicap parking during construction, as it will not be safe. Where should the parking be at the bank? It would not be reasonable to ask for an existing handicap spot, as they are frequently used by bank customers. Somewhere in the back of the Bank parking lot close to the library near a curb cut, would be best. Ask for two, but one would be reasonable. Would it be a full handicap space or just a space on the end that says “for mobility impaired library patrons?” If a sign has to go up, someone will have to pay and install. Would the library’s sandwich board work for this? May not be feasible as this will be “long-term” temporary. Possible to use handicap parking fund to get a sign.

Ginny will go to Marlo Warner to find out the cost of the sign.

Motion to authorize up to \$500 from the handicap fund for a sign for temporary parking for the Library at the Bank, if approved by the bank by LK, second by DM. Unanimous.

*Roll call vote*

*Bob Williford – yes*

*Lynne Kelley – yes*

*Virginia DeSorgher – yes*

*L’aura Jordan – yes*

*Douglas Mayo - yes*

Bob - noted that last month he thought the home bound delivery had ceased, but he found out that it only ceased temporarily

during COVID. He expects them to do more advertising about this program, especially during library construction.

### **COVID-19 information**

Long COVID is now considered a disability under the ADA.

According to the Recorder, the Board of Health is looking at mandating masks in all public buildings. Ginny and Bob attended and many things changed between the Monday and Wednesday BOH meetings. All school committee and City Council meetings will be remote until further notice. There is the hope that hybrid may become an option.

### **Hybrid meetings**

Everything is up in the air about meetings. Massachusetts Office on Disability is working on an official statement on remote/hybrid meetings.

ADA capital improvement grant - could we apply for hybrid equipment for meetings? Ginny - \$5.1 Million in ARPA should cover the hybrid equipment. Delighted to apply for grant, but concerned that the backorder issue would continue to delay it. Can we use some of the Handicap Access money to cover the equipment? With the ADA grant, we don't get any money until December and it must be spend by June.

### **Update on street repairs**

Last month's concern on curb cuts in the DPW Sidewalk/Street bids were brought to the attention of the DPW and the standards were corrected. There are still some odd curb cuts on Colrain Street, but maybe the paving process will replace these. Bob showed pictures of the curb cuts. The crosswalk areas look particularly dangerous and need some paving before the

crosswalk is fixed – particularly at Greenfield Gardens and Colrain Street. The hard part is that it's a bumpy road getting to the tap pad plate. The street repairs haven't been done yet, nor have the crosswalks been repainted. The public right of way standards have been in the middle of being rewritten for years, but they're not approved standards yet. The original RFP was using a very old standard for curb cuts/crosswalks. The DPW has since updated their materials with the newest standards. Bob is working on presentations on sidewalks, but doesn't have a final presentation yet.

### **CDA email address**

Reviewing the options. An address should have more information than just "CDA" - need to make sure people know what it's for and from. Possibly a form for the public that reminds people it's a public record. We want to accomplish a place for people to contact us and a professional way to respond. As it stands now, the commission must send a note through the Chair's personal email account, which has record access issues.

Motion to "To request an authorization for a Committee on Disability Access official option to send and receive email messages." by LK, second by VD. Approved.

### *Roll call vote*

*Douglas Mayo – yes*

*Bob Williford – yes*

*Virginia DeSorgher – yes*

*Lynne Kelley - yes*

### **New issues:**

### **ADA capital improvement grant**



Could we apply for hybrid equipment for meetings? See conversation above re: timing.

### **Fisk Avenue parking/Park redesign**

Don't have the plans yet, but will send them out once they're received. Will take feedback. Why is this moving so fast? The grant needs to be expended by the end of December. This will be great, but we should take a look at the plans. Don't want to mess up the implementation of this project and future generations.

### **Town Hall access**

Betty Tegel sent an email to Ginny. She is a Turner's Falls resident. She has submitted a complaint with MAAB Access Board. The Committee would like to be updated on this concern. Could be a \$10,000 fine with Department of Justice. The new route is 50 feet more. It's a touchy subject. While people say they have positive feedback, many people are having a hard time. Jeff at the Parking Commission had the idea of Friday afternoon to Sunday night closure. How do we help all the businesses succeed and have people get into the town hall?

### **Announcements:**

Lynne will send a link AXSmap.com - rates disability access in places. May want to explore it. It's good to know.

### **Next meeting September 9, 2021:**

With Human Rights Commission as a guest. Please email Lynne with anything else for the agenda the Friday prior.

Do meetings really need to be an hour and a half or do we have a little wiggle room? Sometime the business runs a little later. Let's find out.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to Adjourn by LK, second DM. Approved. Adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

