



Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
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Members:

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

Greenfield Commission on Disability Access (CDA)

Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 1:00 pm

Via WebEx

Members present:

Lynne Kelley, Chair
Bob Williford
Virginia “Ginny” DeSorgher
L'aura Jordan
Douglas Mayo

Members absent:

Also present:

Christian LaPlante, Community Development
Pamela McBride, GPL

LK called the meeting to order at 1:03PM

Approval of the minutes from May 12, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes by LJ, second BW. No edits.
Unanimous.

Treasurers report Postponed until September 2022

Reporting every 3 months now, quarterly.

ONGOING ISSUES

Certifying authority for Perkins library

BW sent out the request on July 4th and has not heard anything back yet.

Building access /historical buildings

Backdoor to the library will not be closing any time soon according to PM.

BW talked with Historical Commission about Hawks and Reed building. Any changes to the door there would not go through Historical Commission.

Community preservation act

LK stated that there is a public hearing for the CPA at the John Zon Center on July 28. LK suggested sharing findings from the transition plan. Current draft of the Community Preservation Plan makes brief mention of ADA improvements for housing. VD cannot make it to the hearing but would strongly suggest that someone does attend in order to bring attention to ADA. VD would like to check in on the Green River Recreation Area. BW added that there is no ADA guidance for natural swimming areas.

VD asked how many buildings downtown have elevators, BW replied that there are quite a few but some of them might just be freight elevators. LJ added that many of the elevators are not ADA accessible. BW added that the commercial zoning downtown does not require parking for residential.

COVID-19 information

BW sent LK an email about a COVID-19 survey for those with disabilities. BW also shared that there are new COVID-19 at home testing kits for those who are blind or have low vision. LK shared that a new booster is coming out later this year that addresses subvariants.

Transition plan update/annual Municipal ADA improvement grant

There is another round of the Municipal ADA improvement grant. LK believes MJ will be submitting. Jeff from MOD had suggested not to ask for big chunks of money. LK wonders if City Hall might be a candidate for this grant. LJ and LK discussed using the grant for the evaluation of the building. VD added that the request for funding for a study was not approved at City Council. LJ asked who would need to be involved for successful implementation. CL stated the city's grant writer and MJ would be the people to discuss the grant with. BW stated that ADA improvement generally only happens when there is major ruling from DOJ or similar. DM is available if writing a letter to the editor is needed.

VD would like to see a % of the city's budget always directed toward ADA improvements like in Jeff Dougan's community. LJ believes the figure was ~2%. VD would like it to be a % of the capital improvements rather than the entire budget. LK will bring something to the next meeting.

CDA email address/City of Greenfield website/evaluation of accessibility features

MJ will be monitoring the email. CL stated that content transfer is currently happening for the new website. BW had been involved with the discussion on the website but had not heard much since

then. CL can chat with Caitlin in the Mayor's Office about the accessibility of the new website.

Sidewalk repair

LK asked if anyone knew of the status of any sidewalk repairs. DM stated that the driveway/sidewalk by the Mill Street Apartments has large gaps that could cause problems. LK suggested sending a picture to See Click Fix. LK is going to send a submission for the sidewalk heading to the Energy Park. LJ does not recommend using the See Click Fix, rather sending an email to Janine instead. VD suggested cc-ing the Mayor's email.

VD asked what ways the City could get people to shovel their sidewalk.

NEW BUSINESS

New town ADA coordinator

LK informed the committee that Lindsay Rowe has left employment with the City. MJ Adams will be monitoring the CDA email address and Christian stated that she will also be interim ADA Coordinator.

Laura asked if the CDA's recommendation from May that the CDA be involved with plan review had been forwarded to the Mayor. Christian will look into it.

Announcements

Two webinars upcoming, National Council on Disability on 26th, White House on 29th. LK will send out.

Next meeting August 11, 2022

Adjournment

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.

