

## **Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes**

**April 9, 2019**

**Board Members Present:** Thomas Weinreich, Andrew Freeman, Darren Macdonald, Angela Sestito

**Board Members Absent:** Anthony Nunes, Michelle O'Connor, Dan Robinson

**Others Present:** Brandon Gulnick (ADA Coordinator), Gino Fellini (Conservation/Herring Fisheries Member), Rick Madden (Conservation/Herring Fisheries Member)

Acting Chairman Thomas Weinreich opened the meeting at 7:30 pm members. There is a discussion about signing a letter of support for the walkways to be removed and replaced at the Veteran's Memorial Park for ADA compliance. A motion is made by Mr. Weinreich, seconded by Mr. Freeman, and unanimously approved by all present board members to sign the letter of support.

### **Informal discussion regarding a stove pipe in the Superintendents building at the Herring Run**

ADA coordinator Brandon Gulnick informs the board that there are two residents present who would like to speak to the board regarding a wood stove in the Herring Run Superintendents building at the Herring Run. Mr. Fellini and Mr. Madden identify themselves as members of the Conservation Commission/Herring Fisheries Commission. There is a verbal proposal by these members for the board to draft a letter stating that installation of a pipe to bring the wood stove in the building up to code and make the stove functional, will not trigger a compliance issue with the existing building.

The board, Mr. Fellini, and Mr. Madden discuss what kind of uses this building is for, as well as whether or not it is a public building. Mr. Fellini and Mr. Madden assert that the building is not for public use and that it is currently used for storage of equipment for maintenance of the brook. They state that they would like the stove to be in working condition so that after maintaining the brook, they would be able to use the stove to warm up/dry off in the building. Mr. Fellini cited an ADA general exception that states employee work areas under three hundred square feet and elevated more than seven inches above the ground, do not have to comply with ADA regulations.

The board has some concerns about a letter stating that the building would not need to be brought into compliance with the installation of this proposed pipe, and would like to do more research on the wording of a letter so as to not exclude the entire building from ADA compliance standards. The board agrees to table the topic and ask Mr. Gulnick to look into how this letter may be worded to only pertain to the installation of a single pipe in the building.

### **Veteran's Memorial Park gift fund**

Mr. Gulnick informed the board that a gift fund had been set up for the Veteran's Memorial Park and that there would be a buy-a-brick fundraiser to raise money for new walkways to be put in at the park. Currently, not all of the monuments are accessible, however the plan is for the bricks to make every monument accessible via walkways throughout the park.

### **Projects for the Municipal Improvements Grant**

Mr. Gulnick stated that he intended to submit the projects for Town Landing to become ADA compliant in the Municipal Improvements Grant for this year. He wanted comment from the board as to whether the board felt that any other projects should be included on this year's application. Mr. Gulnick pointed out that there is funding for the Herring Run Park as well as many funding efforts in the works for the Veteran's Memorial Park.

The board discussed possibly adding a project for compliance from Town Hall. However there was some hesitation as it would be preferable to be able to guarantee funding for one project, start to finish. After some discussion, it was decided to keep the grant focus on the Town Landing in hopes of securing funding for the entire project rather than two projects which may be able to start but not finish.

### **Commission on Disabilities Newsletter**

The board was provided with a draft newsletter to review and make changes, if necessary. Mr. Freeman stated that he thought it might be too wordy. Ms. Sestito pointed out that we could make it one page longer and add some photos of current projects that the Commission is working on. Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Weinreich agreed that they would be a great idea. Mr. Gulnick is going to make some changes and present it to the board at the next meeting for final approval.

### **8:30 P.M.**

Mr. Weinreich adjourns the meeting.