

**Minutes from Thursday, May 11, 2011 Disabilities Commission Meeting**

Members: Mary Healey, Grace Clark, Rachel Brown, Lynne Towler, David Perry, John Cronin, Steve Stolberg, Herbert Cremer, Deborah Malone

Guests: Jacqueline Norton, Mike Kennedy

Staff: Derek Brindisi, Christina Andreoli, Dawn Clark

Guests: Ali Khorasani, Assistant Director of Department of Public Works

Suspend the agenda to allow for presentation by Mr. Khorasani re: Lincoln Street construction

As a matter of course, the Commission requested that all new construction plans be brought before the Commission prior to a Public Hearing (or 25% complete).

Commission agreed to send a letter to DPW, outlining their proposed suggestions. Rachel Brown agreed to draft letter, and send a copy to Commissioner Bob Moylan, City Manager O'Brien and Derek Brindisi.

Commission also requested that a summary of projects or brief narrative be sent to Commission prior to guest presentations.

Motion by Rachel Brown to reinstate the agenda.

Commission approved the minutes from the previous meeting (April).

**Elections Update**

Rachel Brown, Derek Brindisi and Christina Andreoli are scheduled to meet with David Rushford and Josh Meduna to discuss continued improvements to the elections process for people with disabilities.

**Anna Maria Polling Location**

Mike Kennedy met with Building Commission John Kelly to measure ramp at the College. The ramp exceeded 8.3% (in the nines, and tens) in some areas. Commissioner Kelly suggested that they ask the AAB to take a site visit and make recommendations on the ramp's use. Depending upon AAB's determination, the Commission could seek a variance for the ramp and the Commission would draft a letter of support if that is the case. The Commission would also support the polling location, upon these conditions

**Community Access Training**

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35 participants registered, including Worcester and Millbury inspectors, DPW directors. The Commission will distribute brochures at training.

### **City Council Chamber**

Commission discussed the need for hearing amplification technology in the Esther Howland Chamber. Also discussed the feasibility and desire to televise meetings. Commission requested posting the schedule to web site. Commission also discussed relocating the Commission meeting to Levi Lincoln Room for more space and accessibility. Commission discussed the Closed Caption feature.

### **AAB Communication**

The Office of Disabilities will email AAB information to Commission as informational and will determine if a letter of support (or opposition) from the Office of Disabilities is required. Chair moved that the Commission refer AAB consideration requests to the Office of Disabilities. The Office will forward variance requests of concerns for input, when the office feels that the input is appropriate.

### **AAB Update**

Mike Kennedy updated Commission on variance request for Northworks Building.

### **WRTA**

Steve Stolberg will draft a functional needs assessment letter on behalf of the Commission.