



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Disability Commission Minutes 10/18/2006

MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 18, 2006

Members Present: Barbara Cutler, Kerrie Fallon, Barbara Jones,
Kevin O'Brien, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Lin Baker, Susan James, Louis Krodel

Staff Present: Jack Jones

Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2006.

Kevin made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes seconded by Maureen.

SO VOTED

Group Home Planned for Medford Street.

Jack said that the Arlington Housing Authority is applying for State funding to construct a group home for eight special needs adults on property owned by the Authority between the Chestnut Manner Building and Medford Street. Jack said that the only other group home for special needs adults operated by the Arlington Housing Authority is the Frank Donnelly Home which houses thirteen residents and is located on Mass. Avenue. Jack said that this project has support from the Mass. Department of Mental Retardation and has received no known opposition from abutters. Jack said that the Arlington Housing Authority is requesting a letter of support from the Disability Commission to include in its final package for financial assistance that will be submitted to the State. Barbara C. and Kerrie expressed concern about separating these residents from the rest of the community and therefore could not support this request until further information regarding this project was provided. Kevin said that it is admirable that the Housing Authority is interested in providing additional housing for special needs adults but that the Housing Authority needs to be made aware of the Commission's concerns. Barbara C. requested Kerrie draft a letter to be submitted to Frank Hurd, Director of the Arlington Housing Authority, stating the concerns of the Commission. Kevin suggested that the Commission request that DMR send a representative to the next Commission Meeting to answer questions pertaining to this project.

Polling Place Concerns:

Jack said that concerns from some residents have been expressed about the closing of the polling location at the Highland Fire Station due to this location being not fully accessible. Jack said that the ADA does not require that each polling location be accessible only that the voting program, as a whole be accessible. However Jack said that the Help America Vote Act does require that all polling locations be fully accessible.

Variance requested for 251 Mass. Ave.:

Jack said that the Architectural Access Board has granted a variance allowing one means of egress from a second exterior exit to an area of rescue assistance. Otherwise the State Building Code would have required two means of egress from the building.

Memorial Bench:

Jack said that a bench containing a cast bronze plaque has been ordered from O'Brien & Son's and should be delivered within the next month, for installation at the Dallin School Field in memory of Tom Boudreau.

Curb Ramp Work:

Jack said that a priority list of curb ramp work has been given to the Public Works Department. Jack said that Public Works has requested that the curb ramp at Newland and Blossom St. be completed next spring, but that other curb ramp work could begin this fall.

Broadway Plaza Bus Stop:

Kevin said that either a new curb ramp should be installed or that the MBTA should be approached about moving the bus stop in order to allow mobility impaired rider's easier access to busses at this stop. Kevin said that he has discussed a new curb ramp for this buss stop with John Sanchez, Director of Public Works.

Other Business:

Kevin said that a paved walkway would be constructed at the end of Varnum Street to the Bikeway, but that the concrete block leading from Varnum St. to the Bikeway will remain.

Jack said that he has received complaints about the audible pedestrian signals at Mystic St. and Mass. Ave., Brattle St. and Mass. Ave., and at Franklin St. and Broadway. Jack said that the signal maintenance company responsible for repair of these signals has been contacted.

Jack said that the Smith Museum located in Arlington has requested and received assistance in improving accessibility at the Museum.

Legislative Update:

Barbara C. said that the Mass. Families Organizing for Change has scheduled a conference in Tyngsborough on November 4th. Also Barbara C. said that DMR has a regional meeting scheduled at Cummings Park on October 19th.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.