



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Disability Commission Minutes 09/15/04

ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
 MEETING MINUTES
 SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

Members Present: Barbara Cutler, Kevin O'Brien, Joe Giurleo, Tom Boudreau, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Barbara Jones, Lin Baker, Louis Krodel

Staff Present: Jack Jones

Others Present: Elizabeth Plofker, Lisa Anderson Arone

Meeting Minutes June 16, 2004:

Barbara C. noted that the minutes of June 16, 2004 should state that Barbara C. said that IDEA amendment has been passed allowing parents and attorneys representing disabled children to be sued for frivolous claims. Tom made a motion to accept the minutes of June 16, 2004 as changed seconded by Joe.

Meeting Minutes August 18, 2004:

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes of August 18, 2004 seconded by Joe.

Curb Cut Work:

Jack said that the accessibility curb cut project along Massachusetts Avenue is scheduled to begin during the week of September 20, 2004. The total project cost is \$99,000. Jack said that four sites have been given to the contractor to start this project. The sites are Churchill Ave., Newman Way, Willow Court and Coleman Road.

Community Development Update:

Kevin said that the Summer St. Reconstruction Project has begun. Kevin said that on Monday September 20, 2004 Town Meeting would vote on any changes to the zoning at the former Symmes Property. Kevin said that for the proposed development to go forward Town Meeting would need a favorable vote of 67% to change the zoning at the Symmes Site. Kevin said that the developer at the Symmes Site is working to find medical interests for this site in addition to the planned housing. Kevin said that Lahey has expressed interest in about 10,000 square feet of space for medical usage. Lahey currently occupies 25,000 square feet at the former Symmes Site.

Peirce School:

Jack said that Stephan Chaires, Project Manager DRA Architects, sent a letter dated August 18th to Bruce Bruneau, MOD regarding the Peirce School Site Survey of June 22, 2004. In the letter Stephan said that the issues sited regarding the telephone, doors, stairs and room signage have been addressed. Stephan said that there would be a resolution to the issues pertaining to the curb cuts and ramp by September 30, 2004.

Kevin said that the Permanent Town Building Committee has hired a company to provide construction oversight at the Dallin School. Kevin suggested that a representative of this Company be invited to a Disability Commission Meeting in order for the Commission to express concerns over possible construction issues that would pertain to accessibility at the Dallin School.

Town Day:

Barbara C. and Tom expressed concerns regarding the location of the Disability Commission Both. Barbara C. and Tom said that each year the Disability Commission Both is located further from the Town Hall and the accessible parking and toilet rooms. Maureen expressed her concern about canopies blocking curb cuts. Barbara C. and Tom agreed that prior to Town Day 2005 a member of the Commission would meet with the Town Day Committee regarding these issues.

Other Business:

Jack said that a Company located in Waltham called Tri State is maintaining the Town's audible pedestrian signals in Arlington. Jack said that he has talked to Lt. Jim McHugh regarding the audible pedestrian signal not working properly at Park Ave. and Mass. Avenue. Lt. McHugh said that he has been waiting for six to eight weeks for this signal to be replaced by Tri State. Lt. McHugh said that he would go over to Tri State tomorrow in an attempt to resolve this delay.

Kevin said that the traffic signals at Mass Ave. and Pleasant St. are currently being reviewed in order to improve the flow of traffic at this intersection.

Elizabeth Plofker expressed concern about the buses on the #77 route having faulty equipment that prevents the bus from picking up wheelchair riders. Barbara C. suggested that she contact Bill Henning, Director of the Boston Center For Independent Living.

Commission Members agreed to invite Police Chief Ryan to the October Meeting in order to discuss pedestrian safety, audible pedestrian signals, handicapped parking and snow removal from sidewalks. Tom said that he would call Chief Ryan about attending this Meeting.

Legislative Update:

Barbara C. said that Medicare has increased 17%.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.