

Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2013

Members in Attendance: Kerrie Fallon, Rachel Buonopane, Michael Rademacher, John Thompson, Heidi Hample, Molly Fleuckiger, Janice Dallas

Members Absent: Susan James, Maureen St. Hilaire

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator, Burt Pusch (visitor)

Meeting began at 4:05 pm

1. Meeting minutes from 8/21/13 reviewed with changes noted at this meeting. Revision sent out to commission members

2. Town Day September 21, 2013 10-3
 - Our table will be in the usual spot at the corner of Academy St.
 - The newsletter will be completed and ready for distribution at Town Day
 - Concern for coverage at Town Day, discussed this date and worked to modify schedules

3. Discussion about Pavers in Crosswalks and Bricks on sidewalks
 - Complaint originated from Barbara Jones regarding the crosswalks in the Heights where road work is being performed. The pavers in place were not removed
 - Discussed at last meeting and Michael provided the reasons why the pavers were not removed
 - Mass Ave was paved between the Lexington line and the bus depot in the Heights, there are two crosswalks with pavers in this span of road
 - The pavers are reportedly in good shape
 - The history behind these pavers is that they were part of a larger project that had large community involvement
 - Reportedly during this current paving it was decided to keep the pavers instead of digging them up, due to history of their placement as well as large costs to remove the significant cement understructure
 - This project is being completed and funded by National Grid as they trudged up the street performing repairs. The cost to remove was significantly more than to repair.
 - Further paving from the bus depot up to the Dunkin Donuts is next to be completed
 - Michael further qualified the towns "commitment" to not install any new brick or pavers in town, however repairing and replacing existing brick or pavers may still happen per report

4. MOD scheduled to attend October 16, 2013 meeting
 - Jeff Dugan to come to October meeting
 - Will review the responsibilities of COD vs ADA coordinator
 - *we will ask about handicap parking fine (funds), and if a percentage can be used for COD*

5. Postponement of Elections until October Meeting
 - Postponed until October meeting

- Discussion of how vote will take place, will be private ballot
- Term 11/20/2013-10/2015

6. Accessibility Concern at Robbins Library

- Follow up regarding book club access complaint (from previous meeting discussions)
- The book club is a library sponsored club
- This issue and letters written were apparently from months ago
- At the time there was reportedly no other room available
- The director of the library was reportedly committed to follow up, however the complainant had already quit the book club
- Letters sent to Rachel regarding library response since last meeting, will be forward to commission members
- Question posed on whether library staff is trained to understand and accommodate for people with disabilities
- Discussion of forming a subcommittee to work on library access issues
- Suggestion for COD member to address at staff meeting and provide training regarding physical/other access needs and concerns
- Suggestion to build into staff orientation

7. Commission's Updated Transition Plan

- Is it required to update the plan? Our town's plan was developed 10/1994
- MOD was asked and they reported that it was not a requirement though it is a good idea to update, Town Manager reportedly in agreement
- Jack and Town Manager discussion on topic is ongoing
- Somerville and Worcester reportedly have recently put together solid plans, discussion of finding out approximately how much these plans cost
- Town Manager reportedly is considering funding through Capital Budget funds
- Discussion of some buildings not needing new inspection has they were just reconstructed and should pass all guidelines, will further discuss
- Concerns with accessibility at Stratton Elementary and Arlington High School
- Discussion of many improvements that have been made at Town Hall, various schools, curb cuts
- Are these documented? New transition plan may be the place to objectify Arlington's progress towards accessibility goals
- Is there support from the Town to update the plan?
- Plan could also involve a community voice for feedback, discussion of making website more user friendly for town members to give feedback and concerns regarding accessibility
- A new plan could potentially reduce liabilities and show a good faith effort from the Town
- Discussion of value of performing the study and developing a plan
- Discussion of some recent renovations possibly not requiring full research for the plan, but perhaps at least it offers a location to document the town's progress
- The Town would need to decide exactly what needs to be looked at

- Proactive approach to the future of the Town as opposed to fixing problems in a reactive nature
- *To be discussed further at October or November meeting*
- *Subcommittee- Molly, Rachel, Michael- commission members. Jack- ADA coordinator*

8. ADA Coordinator Report

- List of town member's complaints and status of resolution
- Commission members requesting more details in these reports, and what the resolution of the complaint was and possibly the town member's reception
- If the complaint is not resolved, commission members requested that complaint remain on the report until resolved
- Example of the Transportation Advisory Committee- use a format that tracks complaints recording who on committee is volunteering to work on it, what was observed from research, and developing a resolution memo...the complaints stay on the list until resolved
- Drake village- report that maintenance was being performed and notices were posted and distributed, however visually impaired tenants did not have equal access to this notice and reportedly were surprised by the maintenance staff
- Discussion of developing a system to better improve access to the visually impaired: ie. A phone call or email (if they have text reading function)

9. Future Agenda's and Meeting Structure

- Question of who develops the agenda for the Commission's meetings: Chair, ADA coordinator, secretary
- Will check bylaws and discuss further as a group

10. Accessible Parking and Alewife Plaza

- Resolved- the handicap spot has been painted and sign posted near Menotomy tavern
- Question raised in the striping beside the spot is a full 5 ft (ADA compliance)
- Informed that the spots are all shared, no assigned spots per facility
- Carol K. (planning committee) to call Marley Properties to discuss CVS 'claiming' spots for just their customers... and to find out if the sign can at least come off of the handicap spot

11. Accessible Entrance and Accessible Parking in Front of AHS

- Accessible door installed in front of building, curb cut in place, 2 accessible parking spaces near door have been restriped
- Future- what more needs to be done to AHS for better accessibility
- *Will check to see if signage has been posted at spots*
- *Check to see if sign at door*
- *Commission member suggested that Arlington Recreation be aware and perhaps post in their quarterly registration bulletin informing community of the improved access*

12. Curb Cut Ramp Program

- Received full list of locations
- Burt Pusch had some suggestions of other possible locations, will forward to John
- FY 2013 work has been completed
- FY 2014 work to begin in the spring

13. Thompson School Survey

- Reportedly wait for occupancy permit before allowing Commission to look at the school
- School to open Sept 15th (community members invited to see the school)
- The plan to get us in there before opening to review accessibility did not happen
- Question of whether the school needed to be inspected by the state as the Town received state funds to perform the work

14. Other Business

- Mill Street- crosswalk with granite borders near medical building with multiple problems, unsafe per reports. To follow up regarding removal, research to be a priority
- The handicap spot for this building is very difficult to access and back out of, as well as there is not enough space for a ramp to lower, plan to follow up

- In front of Town Hall some work being done
- MBTA- is moving and improving bus stop locations
- Some sections of brick have been pulled up- to be replace with properly installed wire cut bricks

- Further discussion of Wings over Arlington Location and East Side Deli (step entrances)
- Reportedly ADA compliance is not required for town inspectors approval of locations to open, only AAB compliance
- Discussion of inspector possibly educating businesses of ADA compliance, discussion of developing informational handout for ADA compliance and potential incentives (such as tax info/tax credit)
- Discussion of discussion good rates on business loans with Leader Bank, Rachel has a contact at the bank
- Discussion of building these suggestions into Transition Plan
- Could CDBG money be uses for these updates once the curb cut project is completed in a few years.

Meeting adjourned 6:20pm

Next Meeting set November 20, 2013