

**MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 21, 2015**

Members in Attendance: Beverley Bevilacqua, Cynthia DeAngelis, Kerrie Fallon, Michael Rademacher, Maureen St. Hilaire, John Thompson

Members Absent: Susan James, Patrick Quinn, Susan Savage Tennant

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator and John Dun, Owner of Arlington Vision at 180 Massachusetts Avenue.

**Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2015:**

Michael Rademacher made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2015, seconded by Kerrie Fallon. SO VOTED

**Handicapped Parking on Massachusetts Avenue:**

Michael Rademacher said that an inquiry was made as to how handicapped parking spaces were determined in the Mass. Ave. Corridor Project (MACP). Michael said that there would be the same number of handicapped spaces provided after the MACP was completed as there were before the MACP began. Michael said that planned handicapped parking spaces were all shown on construction plans. Michael said that if additional handicapped parking spaces are determined to be needed after completion of the Mass. Ave. Corridor Project a request could be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for their determination of approval. Michael said that the issue of handicapped parking seemed to receive a lot of attention on the Arlington List. Jack Jones said that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) have at this time no requirements in their regulations as to a specified number of handicapped parking spaces required on Public Ways. Jack said that the Public Rights of Way Guidelines are being updated and that the new guidelines, that should be released soon, will require that 5% of on-street parking be handicapped accessible. Jack said that even though the ADA does not require a specific number for accessible parking spaces on Public Ways the ADA however does require that State and Municipalities must make all their programs and services accessible. With on-street parking considered a program or service some number of accessible parking spaces are required to be accessible. Cynthia DeAngelis suggested that the Commission write an article to be submitted to the Advocate explaining the issue of handicapped parking along the MACP.

**Concern Regarding Curbing around Some Planters in the MACP:**

Michael Rademacher said that recently there have been a few complaints regarding concern that a tripping hazard could occur from raised curbing around planter beds installed on sidewalks in the MACP. John Dun, owner of Arlington Vision, located at 180 Massachusetts Avenue, expressed concern about not only a tripping hazard from the raised planters but also regarding the lack of space for a person with a walker or wheel chair to maneuver between on-street parking spaces and the raised curbing around the planters. John Dun said that he has

usually between one to two customers a week that use either a wheelchair or a walker. Jack Jones said that a clear path of travel on a sidewalk must be at least 36"; however the distance between on-street parking and the curbing around the planters is approximately 24". This area is not in a path of travel. Jack said that he has discussed this concern with the Assistant Director at the Massachusetts Office on Disability, who has informed himself that the raised curbing around the planters does not violate any ADA or MAAB regulations. Jack said that any handicapped parking space should not be placed next to a planter with raised curbing because the raised curbing could interfere with the van lift being lowered all the way to the sidewalk.

**Transition Fair:**

Jack Jones said that Gregg Ames is expecting approximately fifty people to attend the Transition Fair. The purpose of the Fair is to explain programs available for disabled individuals when they become adults. Cynthia DeAngelis said that she was planning to attend. Cynthia also requested if possible in the future if any information about events could be shared earlier with the Commission.

**Traffic Signals at Mass. Ave. and Jason Street:**

Michael Rademacher said that because of the high crash rate at this intersection the third highest in the Town a traffic consultant was hired to review how this intersection could be made safer. The result of the traffic consultant study was to have both the pedestrian and vehicle have a green light with the expectation that a vehicle would yield for pedestrians in the crosswalk. This solution however seems to be flawed in that several pedestrians especially visually impaired have complained about the danger in crossing the street when vehicles also have the right of way. Michael said that the Town Manager a representative from the Engineering Dept., Police Department, TAC and himself will be meeting at this intersection to determine how to improve safety at the intersection.

**Curb Cut Ramp Project:**

Michael Rademacher said that after finishing off ramp work on Mystic Street the Town will stop any further curb cut ramp work until next spring. John Thompson provided a list of curb cut ramps to be considered for work in the future. Michael said that he will be requesting a large sum of funds to repair and replace sidewalks within the Town.

**True Story Theatre:**

John Thompson said that he had attended an event at the True Story Theatre. John said that there were several people at the event with hidden disabilities. John said that he left a brochure at the event about the Commission on Disability. John also said that there were several people at the True Story Theatre that indicated that they would like to attend a Commission on Disability Meeting but were physically unable to attend. Kerrie Fallon suggested that the Commission consider moving the monthly meetings to different locations as a way to reach out to more individuals.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

