

**MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2016**

Members in Attendance: Maureen St. Hilaire, Michael Rademacher, Susan James, Susan Tenant, Liza Molina

Members Absent: Kerrie Fallon, Patrick Quinn, Cynthia DeAngelis, Beverley Bevilacqua,

Others Present: Darcy Devney, Advocate, Jack Jones ADA Coordinator

Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2016:

The Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2016 were tabled until the April 20, 2016 Commission Meeting.

Commission Membership:

Liza Molina was introduced as the newest member of the Commission.

Warrant Article 59 Resolution/Handicap Parking Spaces:

Darcy Devney presented a map that showed the location of the proposed handicapped parking spaces along Massachusetts Avenue. Darcy also presented to the Commission a substitute motion she prepared regarding Warrant Article 59 that would be presented at Town Meeting if the Selectmen decide not to support Warrant Article 59. Maureen St. Hilaire commented about how helpful Ted Fields was in notifying the Town's business districts regarding increasing handicapped parking. Darcy inquired if the Commission would consider it worthwhile to have a booth at the East Arlington Fest of the East Festival held in June. Darcy thought that having a booth would be a good opportunity to receive feedback regarding residents and business owner's feelings regarding increase handicapped parking. Darcy said that the application for the Feast of the East must be submitted by April 29, 2016. Susan Tenant said that she would volunteer to be present at the booth during this event. The Commission members supported the idea of having a booth at the Feast of the East and agreed to select a promotional item for this event at the April Commission Meeting.

Display table at the Robbins Library:

Darcy said that she has reserved during the month of July the display table located near the main entrance door of the Library for use by the Commission to display information and recommended books.

Regional Commission on Disability Meeting Scheduled for April 27, 2016.

Jack Jones said that the Massachusetts Office on Disability has scheduled a regional conference in Andover on April 27, 2016 for interested Commission Members and advocates. The deadline for applying to attend is April 21, 2016.

Annual State House Legislative Reception held on March 9, 2016:

Maureen St. Hilaire said that Jack Jones and she attended the 38th Annual Legislative Reception hosted by the ARC of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council. The theme of this year's event was "Celebrating Individuals and Families". Jack said that Senate President Stan Rosenberg and Speaker Bob DeLeo led the presentations to the honorees. Maureen said that the event talked about stories of people with disabilities and some changes to State Laws. Susan James said that the State Senate has voted 36 to 0 to remove the language mental retardation from all State Laws. Susan also said that a vote of 36 to 0 will require the State Diversity office to recruit more employees with disabilities.

Public Works Projects:

Michael Rademacher said that improvements will be made this summer to provide a safer connection for the Minuteman Bikeway through Arlington Center at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Pleasant Street. This project is called the Arlington Center Safe Travel Project. In addition another project will make improvements to traffic signals and sidewalks in the area between Swan Lane and Pleasant Street. Michael said that a Meeting will be held in the Town Hall on March 23, 2016 to discuss this project in detail. Michael also talked about a third project that eventually may happen between Pond Lane and Mill Street which will include sidewalk work , new lighting and updated traffic signals.

True Story Theatre:

Susan James said that she had planned to attend a True Story Theatre event that was sponsored by the Commission on Disability, but was not able to make it to the event. Also no members of the Commission attended.

Curb Cut Ramp Project:

Jack said that Jenny Raitt, Director of Planning & Community Development, had told him that a balance of \$81,000 was available for curb cut ramp work prior to any request for additional funding from CDBG. The intentions are that the Commission will have \$125,000 for curb cut ramp work which will include the \$81,000 for FY 2017. Michael Rademacher said that the Town is working on developing a transition plan for Public Rights of Way. Michael said that approximately three to four million dollars will be needed to complete all the required curb cuts in the Town and that approximately eight to nine million dollars will be needed for sidewalk repair and construction. Michael said that under the State's Complete Street Program the State is more likely to make funds available to municipalities that are involved with this program.

Adjournment:

The Meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.