

MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2019

Members Present: Cynthia DeAngelis, Paul Raia, Paul Czech, Darcy Devney, Karen Mathiasen, Maureen St. Hilaire, Kerrie Fallon, Michael Rademacher

Members Absent: Liza Molina

Others Present: Jon Marshall, Former Director of Recreation
Stacey Mulroy, Acting Director of Recreation
Kevin McKenziz, Facilities Manager Ed Burns Skating Rink
Emily Sullivan, Environmental Planner
Ellen Leigh, Disability Advocate
Juliet Moir, Disability Advocate
Jack Jones, Director of Housing & Disability Programs

Update on upcoming recreation projects that will involve ADA compliance issues:

Jon Marshall said that phase 1 of the reservoir project will update the pump house which last year resulted in the reservoir beach being closed for one day due to high bacteria. Phase 2 of the reservoir project will make the perimeter path around the reservoir more accessible. This path was shored up about ten years ago. Where there are tree roots a material will be placed over the roots. No engineering work has been completed at this time regarding the path it is currently a concept idea. Jon said that the Town will use possibly CPA and/or capital funds if approved for another part of phase 2 that will have the goal of making the bathing beach fully accessible with an accessible path from the parking lot which will also be improved. Jon said that the Town will look into other funding opportunities possibly conservation grants in that the reservoir project will cost approximately 3.5 million dollars.

Jon Marshall said that the Recreation Dept. will evaluate all facilities at the Summer Street complex and develop a plan to improve access from the parking lot. Paul Raia asked if the Recreation Dept. will make the football stands at the High School more accessible. Jon said that the football stands are under the School Dept. but if asked the Recreation Dept. would provide assistance. Kerrie Fallon expressed concern about the lack of accessible playground equipment such as swings at some playfields. Jon said that accessible play equipment will eventually be installed in all playfields where playground equipment exists. Jon said that there are 29 playgrounds in the Town with playgrounds needing to be renovated every 15 to 25 years. Currently the Town replaces a playground every other year but the Recreation Dept. wants to replace a playground every year in order to maintain playgrounds in good condition.

Jon said that \$200,000 in upgrades is needed at the Ed Burns Rink which is owned by the Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation & Recreation with the Recreation Dept. a tenant with a 25 year lease. Some of the upgrades that are needed are to create an accessible route from the parking area into the rink, to adjust the ticket area to a more appropriate height, upgrade the

height of sinks in the bathroom area, a goal of having 2 locker rooms fully accessible. Kerrie Fallon asked about getting 2 chairs on blades so parents of a mobility impaired child could participate on the ice.

Paul Raia said that there are several Towns in Massachusetts that are working with disabled groups combined with able body groups in a unified sports program. Paul said that if the Town were to participate in this program it would receive a grant of \$5,000 to get started with a second year grant of \$3,000. Paul said that the Chair of this group would be willing to attend a Commission on Disability meeting.

Update on environmental issues that involve access at Spy Pond and Wellington Park:

Emily Sullivan, Arlington's Environmental Planner / Conservation Agent talked about passive recreation areas where more accessible pathways will be installed with CDBG funds to overlook areas in the park. Emily said that work on the paths will begin this spring and end during the summer. Emily said that the material that will be used is a flaxy paved which has accessible and environmental benefits. This project at this time does not include a boat ramp because of a rare plant species that cannot be disturbed and is in the location of where the boat ramp was to be installed.

Emily also updated the Commission on phase 1 of improvements that will be made starting this spring at Wellington Park. This project will be funded with CDBG funds and will include flood storage

Update on a discussion with Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager, regarding the use of H/P fines:

Darcy Devney said that Adam gave his support for the Commission using these funds. Darcy said that Adam told her that a warrant article would need to be submitted no later than January 18th. Darcy said that the fund will probably be a revolving fund. Darcy said that she will need to provide a list of proposed accessibility improvements to be accomplished with these funds.

Commission goals to be included in the Town Annual Report for calendar year 2019.

Ellen Leigh said that a worthwhile goal would be working with the business community to improve access. Paul Raia said that the Commission should work with the Council on Aging on developing access goals. The Commission also said that a goal should be to develop a check list of accessibility projects being considered by the Commission. A 3rd goal will be to develop how handicapped parking fines will be used. As always a goal would be to respond to citizens issues.

The Town has been awarded a \$40,000 grant from MOD and with some CDBG funds will be used to develop a self-evaluation and a transition plan.

Jack Jones said that the Town' Planning Dept. has received a \$40,000 grant from MOD to update the Town's Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. Jack said that 2 consultants have responded to a RFP to do the Self-Evaluation. The selected consultant will have two teams for two to three weeks working in the Town to evaluate ADA compliance. The consultant will look

to the Commission on Disability for assistance. Jack said that the MOD award must be expended by June 30' 2019.

Sterling Associates request for support on three variance requests at the Central School Building:

Cynthia DeAngelis said that a letter of support which she read at the meeting has been sent to The Architectural Access Board supporting all three variance requests.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.