



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Paul Raia (co-chair), Grace Carpenter (co-chair), Paul Parravano (co-chair), Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Karen Mathiasen, Kerrie Fallon, Cynthia DeAngelis

Guests: Jillian Harvey (DEI Director), Joan Roman (Public Information Officer), Wayne Chounaird (Town Engineer DPW), Janice Cagan-Teuber (Volunteer), Sarah Forster (Community Member), Ellen Leigh (Volunteer/Advocate), Kim Charlson (Chair, Watertown Commission on Disability & Executive Director Perkins Library), Patrick Baxter (Engineering Manager Cambridge Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department), Rachael Stark (Walking in Arlington-Pedestrian Advocacy Group for All Ages)

Absent: Liza Molina

Meeting called to order by Parravano at 4:10 PM

Agenda

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome (Paul P, Grace, Paul R, 10 min)
2. Approve October & November Draft Meeting Minutes

- a. Moved to after guests speak to end- Paul
- 3. Traffic Signal Presentation/ Discussion (Ellen, 60 min)
 - a. Speakers on the topic: Wayne Chounaird (Town Engineer DPW), Kim Charlson (Chair, Watertown Commission on Disability & Executive Director Perkins Library), Patrick Baxter (Engineering Manager Cambridge Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department), Rachael Stark (Walking in Arlington-Pedestrian Advocacy Group for All Ages)
 - b. Challenges/ Concerns regarding traffic signals
 - c. Wayne- upgrading bus stops, curbs and sidewalks, replacing old equipment focuses on buttons and signals;
 - i. Differences between Town V. Commonwealth requirements of buttons
 - 1. Town adheres to regulatory part of manual for uniform traffic control devices
 - ii. Traffic signals get updated when the Town upgrades intersections
 - 1. When traffic signals get upgraded the first thing that gets focused on is the traffic signal equipment inside the cabinet, then they work on the APS, the ADA buttons, and flashing countdown for pedestrian crossing
 - iii. Town Engineering works to increase accessibility by improving older out of compliance sidewalks, adding compliant curb ramps where necessary, and updating traffic signals
 - iv. All intersections are different- so need to take notice of the different callouts and different sounds intersections can make; variety of different sounds in town, but as the town upgrades intersections – traffic signal sounds are upgraded to be more consistent
 - v. Will provide manual and pull out signs, signals, and crossing and pedestrian actions.
 - d. Rachael- Founded walking in Arlington over 20 years ago; people crossing the street deserve to have a turn on every light cycle
 - i. Covid light cycles included pedestrians, then that was turned off; request to leave off the buttons
 - e. Kim- Watertown signals have multiple features- vibra-tactile on the button
 - i. Lower volume on locator tones
 - ii. Newer signals have a speech component
 - iii. Can give the audible signal
 - iv. Latest feature being installed in some Watertown locations are signals with a locator tone
 - f. Interrupted by a few zoom bombers, have been removed and meeting resumed
 - g. Patrick- state level requirements- there really aren't any; more so just updating with new features, but there are requirements if you are upgrading to dimensions
 - i. Cambridge- \$2000 per button, at about 8 per intersection, so \$16,000 per intersection to just replace buttons, not poles and other components
 - ii. Have been putting in accessible buttons- tells you the phase that also will show up physically
 - iii. Leading pedestrian intervals –For the first three to five seconds of the phase, you get a walk signal, then after that pedestrians will be able to establish themselves in the intersection, the parallel street receives the green signal that way if there is a vehicle waiting to turn to the right they have clear sight distance of the pedestrian. Additionally, they strive to maintain pedestrian phasing that goes for the entire length of the cycle.
 - h. Group Discussion

- i. What types of options are there to accommodate most/varied needs?
 - ii. Traffic and pedestrian flows- need to balance and compromise
 - iii. Some intersections- upgrades/allow for better balancing
 - iv. Kerrie- concern on intersections along Mass Ave, no kind of awareness for the drivers – there were no signals/signs to let drivers know that there was pedestrian crossing
 - v. Mike- there is a group under Town Manager that is looking at design/safety of crosswalks
 - vi. Rachael- suggested speaking with Walk Boston- very great resource, and have helped communities across the state
 - vii. Jill will send out contact info for guests
- 4. Upcoming Meetings of Interest
 - a. AHS: [Virtual Community Forum: Opening of New Wings & What's Next](#) (Wed 12/15)
 - b. [Spy Pond & Parmenter Playgrounds Renovations 2nd Input Meeting](#) (Wed 12/15)
 - c. Bus changes
 - d. [Warrant articles for Town Meeting](#)
- 5. Subcommittee reports (35 min)
 - a. DEI (Jill & Joan Roman, Public Information Officer)
 - i. Jill went over what is left in the budget, \$20,935
 - ii. Joan- working with town staff to make sure we are all doing what we can on web updates to be compliant; Thanks commission for supporting SiteImprov software
 - 1. Tool to check documents for accessibility- Acrobat Pro is the option and is not cheap; 50 people who post to the website; \$18,000 request for 50 licenses, would be a buy out- to ensure that staff can check documents, minutes, agendas, etc. that get put on the website. 1500 new documents a year are put on the website- we have workflow
 - 2. Paul P- would this be used for town presentations as well? Attended MBTA and Planning meeting the other day and it was the most inaccessible presentation
 - 3. If we don't have the tools, then we can't implement it
 - 4. Cynthia- finance committee years ago, something- would like commission to help prioritize accessibility; a consultant?
 - b. Remote Participation (Janice)
 - i. Committee is getting ready to submit their first report to the Select Board
 - ii. As soon as the legislature says remote only meetings are no longer allowed, the remote participation committee has requested that the disability commission be part of a pilot for the hybrid meetings
 - c. Recreation/ Open Space: Communication Boards (Sarah Forster)
 - i. Open Space Forum Discussion (Grace)
 - 1. 3 folks who attended forum, interest in making things accessible, guarding planters, remind folks that the open comment period is closing in early January, please complete it
 - ii. Sarah- Communication board at playgrounds in town- Sarah- goal is to meet with person who installed the boards in Reading- to help guide us to determine, feasibility, pricing, locations, etc.
- 6. Approve Minutes
 - a. DeAngelis motioned to approve November minutes, Fallon seconded.
 - b. Unanimously approve minutes.

7. Closing

- a. Happy holidays, we will see everyone in the new year. The January meeting will focus primarily on priority setting and determining how to use the budget for the remainder of FY22

Rademacher motioned to adjourn meeting, Raia seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday January 19th, 2022 at 4:00PM

Commission members not able to attend please email dei@town.arlington.ma.us prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact dei@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.