

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY, TOWN OF ARLINGTON

20 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 203, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476-6436 (781) 316-3431



Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2013

Members in Attendance: Kerrie Fallon, Rachel Buonopane, Janice Dallas, John Thompson, Susan James, Maureen St. Hilaire, Molly Flueckiger, Heidi Hample

Members Absent: Mike Rademacher

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator, Gary S. (owner of Boston Church of Christ), Colin Smith (architect for Boston Church of Christ project), Ted Wilson (President of Schools for Children)

Meeting began at 4:05 pm

1. **Meeting minutes from 3/20/13, to be reviewed at meeting in May along with minutes for this meeting**
2. **Variance Request 75 Pleasant St., Arlington**
 - Boston Church of Christ presentation of project by Colin Smith and Gary S.
 - Applied for a grant with the state
 - Church is located at corner of Pleasant and Maple, church includes added on annex, used for multipurpose
 - On local, state and national historic listings
 - Original church built in the 1840's, annex added on in 1950's
 - Inclusive community accepting of people with disabilities
 - Parking lot used is Verizon lot across the street, plan is for parishioners to allow access for elderly and disabled as priority for this lot
 - Church is interested in offering their site as new location for Arlington Food Pantry, and/or becoming additional food pantry
 - The project involves multiple renovations and some that specifically target accessibility
 - Will add one accessible entrance to side of main building (to be used as one of the main entrances), graded entrance to handicap accessible power door. Located closest to parking lot across the street, curb cuts present with striped crosswalk.
 - Will install elevator near center of building, will allow for access to all levels and compensate for differing floor heights amongst the old and new portions of the buildings
 - Will modify section of pews for wheelchair access
 - Bathroom: lower level and main level will have new handicap accessible bathrooms installed
 - **Variance requested:** 2 other entrances are non-accessible (not possible to install proper ramp access), top floor bathroom is not accessible (just shy of measurements as listed by

ADA), Alter does not have ramp or lift access, stage (will have temporary ramp available at sharper grade than ADA recommended, not enough room for proper rise and run), small children's sinks in lower level classrooms (no knee space underneath)

- **Questions posed by Commission:**

- could accessible sinks be considered or one added to the area, so those needing access would not have to leave the area to wash their hands?
- Suggest that fire plan be developed in case of emergency evacuation and no access to elevator or accessible entrance/exit.

Our Role as a commission: We can support, oppose, or provide neutral response to this request as a suggestion to the Town Architectural Access Board. The historic society may also need our input. Will further discuss and make decisions possibly at next meeting.

3. Plans for Property owned by School for Children (19 Foster St)

- President, Ted Wilson present to discuss plans with commission
- School for Children is the "umbrella corporation" support a consortium of private schools aimed at educating children with emotional disorders, behavioral disorders, learning disabilities
- Schools in group include Dearborn Academy (ages 6-22, located at the old Crosby School), Lesley Ellis (preschool-grade 6, located in the old Gibbs)
- Purchased a two family house abutting the property of the old Gibbs Junior High, where Lesley Ellis School is located, would like to use to expand the Lesley Ellis School, planning to add grades 7-8
- Plan is to use the home for preschool classrooms (first floor) and administrative offices (second floor)
- Requesting permission to change the main entrance of building to the back, allowing access from the current school parking lot
- Requesting a curb cut access from parking lot/playground over to new building for accessible access to and from the two buildings
- Plan to use outdoor lift(enclosed) in rear of building allowing accessibility to first and second floors, using Agassiz preschool in Cambridge as a reference
- 1st floor bathroom will be accessible, Ted to look into 2nd floor bathroom accessibility
- Planned timeline: develop as preschool classroom within a year

Our Role: Agree with presented plan to change primary entrance to 19 Foster St, to rear of building, to be recommended to Architectural Access Board

- *Will the money for the curb cut come out of CBDG funds?*
- *Suggested accessible bathrooms on both floors 19 Foster St.*

4. Variance Request for Arlington 360 Apartments

- Variance requests presenting to commission in writing, no person present to discuss with the commission, insisting on prompt response to the matter
- Requesting variance to use deeper sinks, with the understanding that shallow sinks will be stocked and on hand and can be switched out on request of individual tenants
- Requesting variance for outlet placement, appears that codes from differing groups conflict with each other on regulations

- Requesting variance to access to pool deck: installation of lift instead of ramp, stating that there is not adequate access for ramp due to height differential
- *Background information: similar variance requested for the Brigham site apts, AAB denied this request*
- Commission discussed developing a bylaw, regarding above proposal to change out sinks, how would this agreement be enforced/ followed up on. Building in timelines of prompt respond to these requests. Find a way to reach out to tenants, to alert us of any such requests so that we may support them.

Our Role: 1. No opinion on outlets- outside our scope of knowledge, 2. Pool- support variance to utilize lift with firm suggestion that access also needs to be available to the pool itself via lift/ramp, 3. Sinks- majority in agreement to be neutral/no opinion with deferral to AAB, one member present strongly opposed to the sink variance request

****Several items below on agenda were deferred this date, due to lengthy presentation of above multiple variance requests****

5. Commission on Disability Advisory Board

- Deferred till next meeting

6. Discussion Regarding electronic voting equipment

- Deferred until next meeting, Erick Helmuth unable to attend today

7. Review of Disability Job Fair on April 10,2013

- Overall event went very well
- Greg Ames very appreciative of the Commission's support at the event
- Review as follows from employers
 - Event- 17 good, 5 fair, 0 bad
 - Candidates- 8 good, 14 fair, 0 bad
 - Organization- 21 good, 1 fair, 0 bad
 - Space- 18 good, 4 fair, 0 bad
- Comments: appreciated parking spaces (parking decals), suggested dress code for attendees

8. Employment for Tomorrow

- Deferred till next meeting

9. Arlington Center Accessible Parking Study

- Deferred till next meeting

10. CDBG Funding FY 2014 & Curb Cut Ramp Project

- Briefly discussed
- Requested \$150,000, likely to be granted \$125,000. Will likely know by next meeting
- work has started on Medford St performed by ERA on FY 2013 budget

- question of two projects- Thompson school curb cuts and Dow Ave (work being done in those areas, this money should not be coming out of CDBG funds) *will follow up with Mike*
- Other projects- Mystic St. curb cuts will be done with that project, High School curb cut will be completed for accessible entrance, Mill St/Library Way add to “to do” list, school for children, add curb cut to list

11. Mass Ave Corridor Project

- Spoke briefly
- Town non-binding vote was split

12. Other

- **Community Access Trainings**
- Framingham- May, N.Attleboro- September, Haverhill- October
- Contact Molly to get info

Meeting adjourned 6:15 pm
Next Meeting set May 15, 2013