



**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: August 19, 2021

TIME: 9:27 AM

BELMONT DISABILITY ACCESS COMMISSION

Minutes, Meeting of June 30th, 2021 (Held via Zoom)

Disability Access Commission Members in Attendance: Emily Walsh (chair), Mark F. Clark, Nan Donald, Patricia Groves, Esq., Janet H. Macdonald

Disability Access Commission Members Absent: Michael Lanza, Erica Zidel

Guest: Donna Ruvolo, Co-Chair, Friends of Grove Street Park

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m., and ended at 8:26 p.m.

The meeting minutes for the last meeting on May 18th, 2021, were approved.

Donna Ruvolo provided background information and updates on the Grove Street Park Intergenerational Walking Path, part of a larger Community Preservation Act (CPA) funded project to provide improvements to the Grove Street Park, Belmont's largest park.

The Disability Access Commission provided a letter of support for the project in 2017, when the Friends of Grove Street Park went before the Community Preservation Committee to request funding. The Commission later approved a request for \$10,000 to help defray costs. Groundbreaking began in 2019, and at this point, the project is nearly complete, with just a few "punch list" items remaining. As a companion project, the Friends of Grove Street Park are also working with the town to repaint handicapped parking signage and to demarcate a van accessible parking spot at the tennis court site. The walking path has been the most expensive piece of the project, as significant grading was necessary to make the path fully accessible for all.

Ruvolo described current usage of the walking path as "absolutely extraordinary," with particularly high utilization by seniors and persons with disabilities. Of the many community projects she has worked on, Ruvolo stated that the intergenerational walking path was the project she felt most proud about, and that it fully realized the goal of making the park vibrant and accessible to all Belmont residents.

The Disability Access Commission will continue to meet remotely until further notice. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 7 p.m., except for this September, when it is scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of the month. Additionally, no meeting will be held in July. The next meeting dates include the following dates:

- Wednesday, August 18
- Wednesday, September 22
- Wednesday, October 20
- Wednesday, November 17
- Wednesday, December 15 (tentative)

During the May meeting, Commission members reported on their research findings on activities of disability commissions in surrounding towns, which were subsequently summarized with a bullet list of the most important information. This list was briefly reviewed during today's meeting and is intended to help guide the Commission in its immediate and long-term goal setting. The list is included directly below today's minutes.

--Submitted by Nan Donald, Clerk.

DAC Benchmarking Project

1. State Goals and Priorities of DAC
2. Some Commissions have standing workgroups to extend the reach as well as spread the work evenly: Some examples:
 - Transportation
 - Children and Education
 - Safety
 - Health and Seniors
 - Communication
 - Planning/ADA Compliance
3. Town Self-Assessment
4. Liaison with town ADA coordinator
5. At Risk Registry (and training for first responders/community members) /911 disability indicator
6. Connecting with our schools (resources in schools- SEPAC)
7. DAC Guidelines: Members/family member with a disability
8. List of accessible parking in town
9. Temporary disability parking permit program
10. Communication: Social Media, Newsletter, Website, CART info, info on COVID resources other disability resources?
11. Assistance with ensuring legal compliance, information and referral services, and programs – all with regard to people with disabilities.
12. Guest Speakers
13. Yard Waste Support
14. Video on how to help people with vision loss.
15. Other education re disabilities to the town (newspaper/TV?)
16. More effective page on website? Info on COVID resources other disability resources?