

Belmont Disability Access Commission

Meeting Minutes: October 24, 2007

Present: Ray Glazier, Laurie Graham (Chair), Janet Macdonald, Joan Hantman (Secretary)
Absent: Patricia Livingstone-Espiet (Associate), Gopal Gupta, Carole Williams, Nan Donald (Associate), Fran Williams
Special guest: Justin Poirier (Building Services Department)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm in the Belmont Town Hall by Laurie Graham

1. Justin discussed his memo regarding ramp schedules and TTY installation. Ramps are being done as the street work is done. At this time ramps are still needed at the railroad underpass and at a bank in the Center. 205 ramps were due to be installed, but the locations are not known. There is no town budget specifically for ramps. Laurie will talk to Peter and Glen from Pavement Management Division regarding the locations of the next ramps.
2. TTY devices: It is up to NEC (vendor for equipment) to give a proposal. Justin can make purchase orders once the proposal has been voted on by the Town Hall Complex Building Committee. There is no phone in the vestibule. TTY phone was approved in the original building plan. It needs to accept toll-free calls. We request a "non-pay phone."
3. New doors for the Town Hall are due in Nov.
4. Minutes from September were approved.
5. Treasurer's report: - \$100 was moved from the account 7/31 or 8/24. Was this to pay for the police detail for the film shoot? As of 6/30/07 there was \$33,507 in account, \$1300 revenues over the past quarter.
6. New buildings are going in to Belmont Center; Jewelry store has 2 stairs in front and a narrow alley too small for wheelchair access. Handicapped access must be from the back. Firehouse restaurant plans are not done yet. Committee was told that it was "ADA compliant."
7. Disability awareness video is on hold. Laurie & Ray were unable to meet with Joe. Meeting will be rescheduled.
8. BDAC- Laurie got some more requests for volunteers for continuing assistance. More volunteers are needed. Joan will distribute more flyers.
9. Wellington School project on hold
10. Senior Committee- Senior center is going out for bid mid-November. They now have matching funds.
11. Elevator is needed at Waverly Oaks. Belmont Housing Authority is applying for funding. We will give \$3000 towards the cost of the plans for the elevator.
12. Emergency preparedness project for those with disabilities. Survey was done on community hazards. Laurie will meet with Emergency Management Planning Director, Leo, next week to see how the DAC can help. Does Belmont have a confidential list of those with disabilities in case of evacuation? People would need to self-identify, but there needs to be a data base connection with the emergency response center.
13. Discussion regarding a disability access guide to businesses. Watertown has such a guide that maybe we can use as an example.
14. John Gallagher, who started Belmont's class action suit just passed away. Committee voted to get a certificate of appreciation towards him. Janet will write up suggestions for such a certificate.
15. Question regarding whether current BDAC members wish to remain on the committee. Several have been repeatedly absent from recent meetings, and/or have not responded.
16. Move to adjourn at 9:15 pm.
17. Next meeting Thursday, November 29, 2007, 7:30 pm