

Belmont Disability Access Commission

Meeting Minutes: August 30, 2007

Present: Joan Hantman, Janet Macdonald, Laurie Graham, Nan Donald (Associate)
Absent: Patricia Livingstone-Espiet (Associate), Gopal Gupta, Carole Williams, Ray Glazier,
Francis 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 presented an update on the status regarding the town's compliance with the suit. Previous statement was inaccurate in that the TTY's had been installed. At this time there is only a TTY for the 911 system at the police department and one in the Town Clerk's office. No other department has one. The Water Department phone rings only to a cell phone. Previously installed systems were removed during renovations and phone upgrades and are no longer available. (TTY's require an analog line and new phone system is digital.) Justin has reported that Dan McCauley, the Public Safety Communications supervisor, has stated that for emergencies for various departments, most people will call 911 to report the problem. It has been recommended that 1 TTY be placed in the DPW, community development, and big departments such as light & water for after hours. A mobile device can be used at the police station and Town Hall but has to have a dedicated line. (Refer to Building Services Department Internal memo of August 30, 2007 for more information.) Justin reports that Tom Younger can allocate \$700-\$1000 from the 2009 town budget for each card that serves 6-8 ports. Old TTY systems appear somewhat out-of-date. Should the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission be contacted for recommendations? Laurie will contact Patricia Livingstone Espiet and will find out what other towns are using for communication. Laurie will also contact Verizon as to determine what technology is currently available. Kevin is willing to purchase more TTY's if needed.
2. Jason reported on status of curb cuts [known officially as "curb ramps"]. (Refer to Building Services Department Internal memo of August 30, 2007 for more information.) 486 ramps have been completed, and the town may be close to meeting the goal of 770 by the end of the season. However, there is no master list of where the ramps are due to be placed. There is also no master list available of the streets which are still in need of ramps. Laurie will talk to Peter Castanino and Glen Clancy from the Highway Department. Question as to whether ramps will automatically go in when the streets and sidewalks are redone, and whether they are being placed where needed. Places known to be still in need of ramps include Frankie's Fish, the Fire Station, the bank facing the station, and 50 Leonard St.
3. Commission has a concern with the open meeting law in that conference calls are not allowed thus not making the meeting accessible to those who are unable to physically attend. Commission will speak with other similar groups to see about drafting a letter requesting a change in policy for this district. The DA has thus far not allowed for a change.
4. Meeting minutes from July 19 were amended and approved.
5. Treasurer's report indicates that \$396 was paid to the Newton Police Dept. from our budget to pay for the detail during the filming of the video, though no one on the committee was made aware of this appropriation of funds.
6. Janet was the representative at the Meet Belmont event. The Head of the Health Department was given Disability Assistance Program flyers and many were distributed at the event.

7. Disability video is still unfinished and the project is on hold. Commission needs to decide how to pursue the issue. At this time Joe Doyle is still owed some money.
8. Joan will pursue finding out about the cost of having Fernald fold some of the BDAC flyers. Laurie will see if there are some students available for this. At this time, Laurie has received several calls from those in need.
9. An emergency management plan was discussed. How would people with disabilities be reached in the event of an emergency?
10. Town is looking to install colored tiles for the ramps. Colonial red tactile tiles were recommended by a vote of 3:1.
11. There are still some Town Hall complex problems. We are working with Kevin Looney on the sidewalk resurfacing, and we also need a non-slip surface on the stairs.
12. Laurie has recommended monthly meetings for the commission. Meetings have been planned for Thursday September 27, October 25, and November 29 at 7:30 pm.
13. Motion to adjourn.

Recorded as understood and respectfully submitted by Joan Hantman, Secretary