



**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: February 17, 2022
TIME: 9:37 AM

BELMONT DISABILITY ACCESS COMMISSION

Minutes, Meeting of September 22nd, 2021 (Held via Zoom)

Disability Access Commission Members in Attendance: Emily Walsh (chair), Nan Donald, Michael Lanza, Janet H. Macdonald, and Erica Zidel

Disability Access Commission Members Absent: Patricia Groves, Esq.

Guest: Norma Massarotti, Town Meeting Member Precinct 5.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m., and ended at 7:54 p.m.

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

DAC members wish to have a tree planted at the Grove Street Park in memory of Disability Access Commission member Mark F. Clark, who passed away last month. Emily has followed up with Jay Marcotte, Belmont's Director of Public Works, who explained the necessary steps to follow and noted that trees are planted in the Spring. All agreed tree selection should be left to the town's expertise.

Norma Massarotti expressed accessibility concerns. She began by expressing appreciation for how responsive town officials were when she raised concerns about accessible parking spaces in Belmont Center made unusable by persons using wheelchairs or walkers when located by benches, planters, light posts, and other barriers. She noted the town solved the issue in Belmont Center within six to eight months. She has volunteered to explore other areas in town to see where accessible parking is hindered by abutting permanent structures. Ms. Massarotti also expressed concern with a major feature of the proposed library plan, consisting of a central staircase built out to be a welcoming gathering spot for library patrons, but unusable by those whose disabilities preclude climbing stairs. She also noted that the planned placement of all accessible parking spots by the side entrance and not the main entrance sends a negative message to those needing such accommodations.

Patricia has completed an initial draft of disability resources and advocacy organizations to be added to the DAC website. Nan will follow up with some additional listings and draft an introduction. Emily will follow up with Ms. Massarotti and the concerns she raised.

The Disability Access Commission will continue to meet remotely until further notice. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. Other upcoming meeting dates include:

- Wednesday, October 20
- Wednesday, November 17
- Wednesday, December 15 (tentative)

--Submitted by Nan Donald, Clerk.