



RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: April 21, 2023
TIME: 9:16 AM

BELMONT DISABILITY ACCESS COMMISSION

Minutes, Meeting of March 15th, 2023 (Held via Zoom)

Disability Access Commission Members in Attendance: Dana Bickelman, Nan Donald, Michael Lanza, Norma Massarotti, Andrew Poulsen, Macharia Waruingi, Erica Zidel

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m., and ended at 7:52 p.m.

February 15th meeting minutes were reviewed and amended to correct the date of the meeting. Meeting minutes were approved. Norma Massarotti to issue meeting minutes to the Town for recording and posting purposes.

Andrew Poulsen to discuss the commission's \$ budget with past chair, Emily Walsh, to understand commission's funding. The DAC should receive an allocation from the parking fees collected in the town. Money is also allocated to the MLK Breakfast and other areas.

Andrew Poulsen and Macharia Waruingi provided an update regarding their involvement on a request from the Town to assist a resident with their questions on accessibility as a tenant:

- accommodations – what is considered reasonable
- what is legally required of landlords
- how to approach landlords
- etc.,
- Dana Bickelman recommended that the resident also consult with the COA social worker regarding this

Macharia Waruingi discussed the need for property managers to ensure that communication to residents considers disabilities with respect to how that communication is given (for example – a written note placed on a washer advising residents that the machine is not in use cannot be read by someone who is visually impaired). Macharia will draft a letter to the Town to bring this need to their attention for actioning.

Michael Lanza shared that no update is available for the Website Renewal project, one will be provided when available at an upcoming meeting.

Norma Massarotti shared that no additions have been made to the Commission's excel spreadsheet tracker and will add the first topic shared at this meeting to the tracker.

- Norma Massarotti to send Dana Bickelman a copy of the survey findings for the bathroom accessibility assessment. The bathroom was compliant with ADA. A "tall" toilet is not an ADA requirement.
- The traffic lights in Waverly Square by the Star Market intersection are in working order (though sometimes stick in cold weather).
- Norma Massarotti to add the fall risk issue (due to the broken sidewalk) near the handicapped parking by the entrance to the COA to the spreadsheet and to address it with the Town

Andrew Poulson represents the DAC on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Emily Walsh to provide an explanation of what the “At Risk” Registry is to the DAC at an upcoming meeting for the Commission’s consideration for Belmont.

The Chief of Police, James MacIsaac, will be invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss the Advocates group which the Belmont Police partners with. Advocates is an organization that collaborates with partners across communities to create solutions for better lives. Scope of its services includes people with disabilities.

--Submitted by Norma Massarotti, Clerk