

**Harvard Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes 1/17/24**

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 865 2054 3786 Passcode: 379099

Called to Order at 4:02pm by Toni Spacciapoli

Present: Toni Spacciapoli, Davida Bagatelle, Laura Sullivan

Liaison: Charles Oliver

Guests: Tim Bragan and Jeff Hayes

Approval of December 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Old Business

- Report from Tim Bragan, Town Administrator, and Jeff Hayes, Town Facilities Manager, pertaining to corrective action undertaken by the Town regarding the ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan:
 - Working with the funds currently available to address corrective items noted in the report that are immediate.
 - Jeff Hayes briefed the Commission noting that many items have already been addressed since they were minor. A plan is being developed to address remaining items - Including completion dates and budget considerations.
 - The Commission offered to notify Town Administration of possible grants for future projects.
 - School buildings are under the auspice of the Superintendent. The Commission and Tim Bragan will reach out to the School Department to invite them to a meeting.
 - Town Administration will deliver updates on a monthly basis and/or quarterly meeting invites.
 - Discussion regarding ways to communicate the corrective action results to the community.
- Nothing to report from the Select Board. Liaison, Charles Oliver, will request an update on the accessibility corrections at Hildreth Elementary School building that has been initiated by the School Department.
- The Massachusetts Office on Disability's notification of grant funding is delayed.
- Commission on Disabilities landing page:
 - Will add a new heading with links, i.e., Inclusive Recreational and Support Opportunities. To possibly include: a list from Special Education Parents Advisory Committee (SEPAC); Winter Adaptive program guide for Winter 2024 from DCR (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/adaptive-program-schedule>); and Directory of supportive services and resources for elders and people with disabilities <https://www.massoptions.org/massoptions/long-term-supports-and-services>).
- Recruitment efforts: A new member, Kate Madigan, will be joining the Commission next month. The Commission will be changing the meeting date to 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

New Business

- No new inquiries to the Commission on Disabilities
- Egress connecting Bromfield High School and The General Store in need of repair to improve accessibility. The egress is on The Congregational Church property.

- Recent webinars and trainings:
 - Davida Bagatelle shared information about a movement regarding fashion designers creating fashion/clothing that is geared to handicapped individuals.
 - Google accessibility features
(<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2023/11/07/google-rolls-out-accessibility-enhancements/30620/>)
 - Discussion associated with sharing new information and links with Council on Aging, the Library, PTO, or SEPAC so that these organizations can share information with their constituency.
- Identification of Commission's roles.

Next Tentative Meeting Date: 2/28/24 at 7:00 PM
ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn at 5:12 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Toni Spacciapoli, Commission Secretary