

Westwood Disability Commission
February 15, 2019 9:00 A.M.
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall

Minutes

Attendees:

Commission Members: Tom Barner, Anne Berry-Goodfellow, MaryAnne Carty, Michelle Fiola-Reidy, Marianne Leblanc, Jette Meglan, Connie Rizoli, Mary Sethna.

Guests: Select Board Chair Michael Walsh and Town Administrator Michael Jaillet

Agenda item: Approval of Minutes

January 25, 2019 Minutes Approved.

Agenda item: New Business - Discussion of Disability Concerns with Select Board and Town Administrator

Members of the Commission provided Select Board Chair Walsh and Town Administrator Mike Jaillet with a brief introduction and a synopsis of members' key concerns.

The Commission reviewed recent communication issues with other Town offices and requested improved methods of keeping the Commission informed of Town initiatives so that the Commission can provide timely comments. In general, the Commission stressed the need for ADA compliant program accessibility including access to conservation properties through universal access design.

Specific examples of issues that need to be addressed included

- appropriate building department practices concerning private residential access projects,
- increase in affordable, accessible housing,
- disability access training for Town employees,
- maintenance of sidewalks,
- improvements in curb cuts,
- enforcement of handicapped parking use, and
- improved snow removal in private parking lots.

Town officials will discuss ways to increase communication with the Commission. A bond issue that will be proposed at Town Meeting in May will seek funds for sidewalk and road improvements throughout the Town. Meanwhile, specific problems with

sidewalks and curb cuts should be brought to Mike Jaillet's attention. Similarly, Mike Jaillet should be informed of any problems with snow removal in private retail parking lots. Efforts are presently underway to develop accessible and affordable housing units.

Agenda item: New Business - increased visibility for the Commission on Disability

Marianne reported that Westwood Media Center Executive Director Melinda Garfield would be interested in interviewing members of the Commission to provide the public with information on our work.

Tom suggested that the Commission have an article in the local press.

MaryAnne suggested an article in the Town Newsletter.

Jette recommended that the COA newsletter include information on the Commission.

Anne agrees that these are good ideas, and welcomes members to draft articles to submit to the proposed publications.

Agenda item: Old Business – Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)

Anne reported on the Planning Board meeting held on January 29, 2019. Anne sent a letter to the Planning Board containing the Commission's concerns about the OSRP. She also spoke at the Planning Board meeting. The revised draft of the OSRP included a new goal to increase accessibility and incorporated most of our broad recommendations.

Agenda item: Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on March 8, 2019 at 9:00.

The topic will be the proposed update of the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Plan Committee member Tom Vlti and Town Planner Abby McCabe will be attending.