

**Harvard Commission on Disabilities  
Meeting Minutes 5/24/23**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Meeting ID: 825 1020 3030**

**Passcode: 259020**

**Called to Order at 5:00pm by Davida Bagatelle**

**Present:** Davida Bagatelle, Toni Spacciapoli, Charles Oliver

**Approval of April 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Old Business**

- Presentation of the results of the town-wide accessibility and inclusivity survey to the Select Board. Toni Spacciapoli presented a powerpoint presentation of the results of the survey sent out to residents in December. Survey comments corresponded with findings of noncompliance and concern that were identified in the Transition and Self-Evaluation Plan report. A recommendation was made to schedule a meeting with Tim Bragan and Rich Maiore to discuss a plan to implement and monitor corrective action items and to include a timeline for completion. Charles Oliver commented that the CPA tax increase may be an avenue for providing funding to address compliance issues found in Park and Recreation and facilities. Charles Oliver noted that funding requests to Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will open in September and some boards and commissions have begun to make requests.
- Discussed meeting with Town Administration and Select Board regarding implementation of the ADA Transition and Self-evaluation Plan. We will develop an agenda for the meeting and select a date in July prior to the end of the month. Charles Oliver will be invited to the meeting.
- Updated information on the jurisdiction of the path from The Bromfield School to the corner of the Congregational Church. The Town has jurisdiction over the paved portion of the path. Davida Bagatelle recommended that the citizen, who inquired about the pathway, send a letter to Tim Bragan and petition for repair of the path. Charles will follow up to find out if Tim received a petition from the resident.
- Discussed inviting a school department member to Commission on Disabilities meetings for the purpose of sharing information with the school committee and school superintendent to keep lines of communication open. Charles suggested a liaison from the schools as a permanent appointment.
- Report from the Select Board liaison: Charles Oliver is pleased that the CPA tax increase passed. He will ask Tim Bragan to identify who has responsibility for various buildings and properties in town.
- CODA monthly meeting update. We did not attend the meeting.

**New Business**

- There were no inquiries to the Commission on Disabilities; however, Davida Bagatelle discussed the problems associated with hearing impairment accommodations for town meetings that was mentioned in Harvard Press Letters to Editor. Members reiterated the importance of ensuring that hearing impaired residents are able to fully participate in town wide meetings wherever they are located. Davida Bagatelle requested that

Charles Oliver address this concern with the Select Board, specifically the sound system at Cronin Auditorium.

- Recruitment: Laura Sullivan is interested in joining the Commission and submitted the paperwork for appointment. Toni Spacciapoli will contact the Town Administration after speaking to Laura Sullivan. Thanked Charles Oliver for helping with recruitment efforts for the Commission.
- Other:
  - Discussion about the article in Harvard Press. The members of the Commission welcomed the opportunity to speak to the Press about the Transition and Self-evaluation Plan report. Members clarified the intent of the Transition and Self-Evaluation Plan. It was emphasized that there is a lot to digest in the report and the Town is in generally good shape regarding compliance with few major violations.
  - Davida recommended writing a letter from the Commission to the Harvard Press regarding the article.
  - Toni Spacciapoli suggested that all town Boards and Commissions may benefit from receiving knowledge about ADA and Title II, especially those in a position to make purchases and renovations. Davida Bagatelle pointed out that the School Department is actively moving to resolve noncompliance violations.
  - Questions were raised about jurisdiction regarding handicap parking spaces at Town fields.

**Next Meeting Date: 6/21/23 at 4:30 PM**

**ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn at 6:06 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Toni Spacciapoli, Commission Secretary**