



Commission on Disabilities
March 9, 2023
Meeting called to order 5:05

Jean Goldsberry, Janet Beyer, Marybeth Barker, Lloyd Price, Karen Young, Robert Andrews. Meryl Schwartz

Guests: Mark Gallius, Linda Escobedo

Meeting called to order 5:10
Meryl moved to accept Bob seconded

Rides home from Emerson Hospital
Seems to be working ok Thanks to advocacy of Acton advocates.
The hospital has someone who is providing rides home and they have a grant to provide that. Jean will ask hospital about wheelchair accessibility in those rides.

Plans to Walden and Main streets intersection

Erin Stevens, Transportation and Mobility Planner for the Town of Concord: The Town has a grant for improvements to the corner of Main and Walden streets to make it safer. Proposed change: Allows people on the Anderson property side of sidewalk to see traffic and will make it ADA accessible. A dashed line will be added to clarify lanes. One parking space will be eliminated and tree will be put in. It will not be an area to park in. The walkway will be eight feet wider, which is wider than required. This could prevent ice blocks. Detectable warning panels and tree grates will make it safer. The goal is to make the intersection more of a pedestrian friendly area. People will feel the need to slow down. The walkway will look like brick, but is not and is ADA accessible.
There will be more visibility from the crosswalks.
It is expected to be completed by winter of this year.
Erin talked to the state about MBTA accessibility. They have a possible temporary solution and it could be available for 2025. It would be a free-standing solution and it would stay in place until we had a permanent solution.
She is working with the central planning staff, part of state transportation regarding Route 62 and Old Road to Nine Acre Corner. The hope is to find low-cost solution to help people cross there. There is time for people to cross but if you have a handicap it is not. We have to make sure the lights are timed

correctly. They have to be sure the cars are going to stop and you have to wait to make that decision to cross.

Linda: are you applying for a planning grant and what is the timing

Erin: We are getting the study done for free. Timing: My guess is six to nine months

Lloyd and Mary Beth regarding 250th celebration

Mary Beth: we decided that there was a role for our commission to prepare for upcoming celebration. Lloyd and I were going to reach out to the stores re: accessibility. We have to figure out how to work with them and abide by the open meeting law. I don't know anything about the committee, their priorities etc. Lloyd has gone into the businesses and talked to them

Lloyd: I have a couple observation. Buildings are old and have e.g. stairs. And the aisles in some cases are narrow. I found the owners I spoke with are interested in being accommodating if, for example, people call and say they are having trouble getting in. A lot of the doors do not open fully, there are some substantial limitations that we can't do anything about.

Where and with whom do we go from here re: what is accessible.

MaryBeth: One of the thoughts is to put together a list of businesses and note if there is street level access and if the handicapped entrance is found easily. Maybe the Town needs literature in large print or braille regarding what stores accommodate people with all sorts of disabilities. Would the store be willing to deliver or do curbside delivery.

We would like to survey this commission to see what stores are accessible.

Karen: I would like us to include West Concord stores.

Mark Gallius: The 250th committee has subcommittees The executive committee could send a directive to all the subcommittees asking what they can do to accommodate people with disabilities.

A survey idea is excellent but I don't know who would do that. maybe have people with disabilities send letters to the commission regarding their concerns.

Lloyd: Would it be helpful to ask the 250th committee to send a representative to our next meeting?

Jean will ask executive committee to ask who would be good to come to our next meeting so we can get involved now.

Marybeth: maybe we could get some attention from the Concord Bridge.

Lloyd: Could we send a questionnaire to the businesss.

Jean: Answers can go to one of us.

Mark: I would ask the Town clerk.

Jean will contact 250th executive committee and ask who would best come to our next meeting.

Marybeth: in response to the question about how and if other towns accommodate people with low or no vision Marybeth reports that she learned the following.

Other towns include a tag line or banner on all their agendas and notices of public meetings which says “ if you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation in order to attend this meeting please contact [name of Town ADA coordinator and contact info]. If possible we will accommodate you.”

Jean: I will reach out to Newton to see how that group works, if they have a policy. Look at whether we could send it out to Concord.

Bob: I think Kellie Hebert, interim Concord ADA coordinator, should come to our meetings.

Jean will specifically invite her to next meeting.

Mark: Article 10 on Town warrant having DEI coordinator. The Town has hired a consultant. DEI commission has a survey on line.

Marybeth Can the results of that survey re: disabilities be shared with us?

Meeting adjourned 6:20