### Town of Dedham Commission on Disability Meeting

October 21, 2019 Town Hall First Floor Conference Room – 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Tricia Whitehouse, Diane Loud, John Tocci, Ken Cimeno, Mac Sterling, Vicky Berg (via phone), Bernie Chirokas, Ellen Conway

Absent: Bob Winston

John Tocci chaired the meeting.

September 2019 minutes were not yet submitted, and will be reviewed and voted upon at the November meeting.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

September 1, 2019 beginning balance : 66,402.11 interest : 124.44 September 30, 2019 ending balance : 66,526.55

This means that there were \$980.10 in deposits and interest added in August 2019. Ken will send this information prior to the next meeting.

#### Parks and Rec/Open Space Master Plan

- The question was posed to the group regarding whether we want to take any position on the Striar property development, which includes fields, dog parks, a bocce court, restrooms.
- The Master Plan will be presented to Town Meeting on November 25, 2019
  - The decision to be made at Town Meeting is whether to bring this to ballot in April 2020
  - $\circ$  2/3 vote is needed for it to pass, then the town needs to vote for debt exclusion
- The following background was provided to aid the discussion
  - Parks and Rec joined with Open Space to increase the budget from 75k to 100k
  - The contractor involved with creating the master plan is very good about incorporating accessibility as part of the design rather than as an add-on
  - The eventual plan is to create a walkway to Wigwam Pond and possibly a dock
  - The front half towards the street is wetlands, which will have wooden bridges in some areas as well as trails
- Discussion of COD perspective:
  - Bernie brought up the point that bocce is a Paralympic sport. The only nearby bocce court is at the Italian American Club, which is not accessible
  - Diane feels that open space and opportunities for recreation would enable increased inclusion for people with disabilities, including psychiatric and intellectual disabilities, which would result in improved quality of life. Ken and Vicky agreed.
  - It was also acknowledged that flat surfaces are easier to traverse for individuals in wheelchairs or who have gait issues

• A motion was made and seconded for the COD to put forth a statement of support, and was approved by unanimous vote. John will draft the statement and circulate by the November 4, 2019 meeting

# **Dedham House of Corrections:**

The Dedham HOC is seeking a variance for a restroom upgrade. The way the plumbing is set up, it would cost \$35,000 to move the sink in order to be ADA compliant.

- The COD has no actual jurisdiction here; it falls to the MA Architectural Access Board
- Mac will draft a letter stating that we do not object to the variance

## **DHAC** pool accessibility issue:

- Ken received notification last week that DHAC has replaced the lift with one which exceeds the requirements of the ADA (ADA requires that the lift be able to accommodate 300 lbs and this one is rated up to 400 lbs). It was tested up to 350 lbs
- Ken will look into the lift at the hot tub

## Hertz letter:

- We have not received a response to the August 30, 2019 reply to Hertz, acknowledging their initial response and asking for answers to questions that we posed in our first letter which went unanswered.
- Ellen will resend the letter via email

## New business:

Mac received a request for several variances for 610 High St (the Bank Building):

- For the rear entrance at the parking lot level, the ramp is not ADA compliant
- The 1<sup>st</sup> floor is sloped and has no railings or landings
- High St entrance is not accessible
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor elevator to lobby \*\*someone was supposed to send me the exact wording of the request for the variance, in order to reflect accurately what the issues are

Discussion:

- Ken feels that the variance for the front entrance is reasonable, as most people use the rear entrance, but that the rest is not reasonable
- John made a motion to oppose the blanket issuing of variances and to indicate to the AAB that there are alternatives which have not been explored. The motion was seconded and all present at the meeting were in favor, with Vicky abstaining because she was joining via phone and could not view the documentation and drawings.
- Diane will draft the letter to the AAB prior to the next meeting

Bernie received a picture from a resident regarding traffic light issue at Eastern Ave and Providence Highway, and this was forwarded to Joe Flanagan by John. Joe states that it is a DOJ matter. John will follow up with him for clarification and further instruction.

There is also a curb issue at the Dedham Mall, which Ken will follow up on.

Tricia found a list of barrier-free playgrounds in the current issue of BayState Parent magazine.

Tricia handed in her letter of resignation, effective immediately, as she will have a change in residency starting in a few weeks.

Vicky reports that there also a lift issue at the Dedham Hilton pool. Ken will check into this.

**Future Meetings:** November 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. December 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Loud