

Disability Commission November 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

**Marcia Cairns
Pat Crowley
Ron Menard
Lisa Thompson**

Also Attending:

Jen Warren-Dyment, ADA Coordinator

- Chm Ron Menard opened the meeting at 6:07PM.
- The June 24, 2023 meeting minutes were approved by Marcia Cairns, Lisa Thompson, and Ron Menard. Pat Crowley abstained, because he did not attend the meeting.
- The August 15, 2023 meeting minutes were approved by all members of the commission.
- Carolyn DeVries' suggestion of a bylaw requiring all town businesses to be handicap-accessible was discussed. The town does not have the authority to do so. Jen said she explained to Carolyn that the proper method of dealing with a handicap accessibility issue with a specific business is to contact the Massachusetts Architectural Board to file a complaint.
- Accessibility issues found from individual reviews of the Treasurer's web pages were discussed. Pat and Ron had previously submitted their findings to Jen, who'd given them to the Treasurer/Collector. The latter had then made corrections based on those reviews. The Commission proceeded to verify that the corrections had been made. Also, Pat found several grammatical errors, such as double indentations and incorrect capitalizations, that Jen immediately corrected. Under the link "Delinquent Taxes", Pat suggested that the paragraph involving excise taxes should include the same "delinquent taxes" link found within the real estate and personal property tax paragraphs. Finally, under "FAQs", Pat had Jen remove the first of the two links, so only the handicap accessible one remains.
- Jen mentioned that the \$75,000. Disability Grant, submitted by State Senator Kennedy, was

approved by the Legislature. It must be spent by the end of June 2024. Jen proposed spending the money on sidewalk renovations in front of the high school, which includes a curb cut at the marked walkway leading to the school entrance. If there are any leftover funds from the grant, they can be spent on accessibility renovations at the town hall.

- Jen suggested that a review of town meeting feedback be on the next meeting's agenda. The feedback is from having the town meeting in the gym, instead of in the auditorium.

- For the next meeting, members are asked to review both the Assessors' and the DPW's web pages for accessibility issues.

- The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2023, at 6:00PM in the Select Board meeting room.

- A motion was made by Marcia, and seconded by Lisa, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Menard, Chairman