

Provincetown Disability Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
January 12, 2016
Meeting in the Caucus Hall at Town Hall

Meeting Started at: 10:55AM

Members Present: Herb Hintze, Michelle DeMarco, Nancy Swanson,
Linda "Rowan" Wielblad, Gloria McPherson & Linda Loren
Vacant Position

Members Absent: Gloria McPherson – Excused, Michelle DeMarco - Excused

Guests: Rowan Wielblad – Commission Applicant, Rik Ahlberg – Bike Comm.,
Eric Larsen – Dep. Dir. DPW

Public Statements:

Rik Ahlberg – Representing Bike Comm. & PT365 – Presented hand-out from Smart Growth America which presents recommendations on how to make streets more disability accessibility. Will be working to make town streets more accessible. To attend future meeting for full presentation.

Welcome and Open Comments:

Herbie requested that we vote for officers for 2016. Swany motioned and Linda seconded to keep present officers for 2016. Herbie – Chair, Vernon – Vice Chair and Linda as Secretary. Vote 4 – 0 to approve motion.

Rowan and Swany – presented handout regarding Service Dog Rights for distribution in town in order to clarify the regulations for businesses in town.

Linda issues with parking and inaccessible ramps.

Ongoing Issues:

Eric Larsen – presented DPW issue with Handicap sign on the sidewalk outside of Vorelli's restaurant. Request permission to remove sign for the winter in order to

accommodate the sidewalk snow blower. Herbie stated that he had called the Jeff Dugan at the state Disability Office and was informed that sign should not be removed. Linda stated that the issue is that only the sign is the acceptable designation for

disability parking. If sign is removed, anyone may park there regardless of the ground designation.

Paving – Eric state that they will increase the width of the sidewalk whenever they are able. Next project is Johnson St. to Howland Street and bricks will continue to be used for the sidewalk. He acknowledges the winter issues of the bricks heaving and becoming unsafe. It is also very costly to repair the brick sidewalks every year. He is now asking for a different way to lay the bricks. He requested support for a 2” concrete base then sand and then the bricks. This will prevent the movement of the bricks. Vernon suggested that we present a town article to discontinue the use of bricks. Discussion around issue. Eric stated that whenever they make repairs in the future they will use the new concrete system. Linda suggested that we support the new system and present article. She doubted that the article would pass since there has been no support in the past. Using the new system for all new sidewalks and future repairs will not replace the brick but will make them safer. DPW will submit their plan for the Hybrid system and we will support it. Eric will come to a future meeting.

DPW – will be reconfiguring the stairs at Grace Hall Lot
Main lot – needs to be reconfigured in the future in order to eliminate the flooding.

New Business:

Herbie – completing Year End Report and 5 year Plan

Mission Statement – will not be changed

Budget for FY17 will remain the same as previously \$5,000.

Herbie – thinks that there are some line items in the COA Budget that may be more appropriate in our budget. Will review COA budget.

F/U – ramp issue at Seashore Point – Need to look at issue again. Same problem at Maushop entrance. Sidewalk in front of entrance is very high and not easy to navigate. There are ramps but they are a distance from the entrance. Easy accessibility for someone in a wheelchair but very inconvenient for someone using a cane or walker.

Linda will contact Jeff Dugan at the state office and ask what we can do about this issue.

Dominic from Parking will be invited to the next meeting for discussion of issues around Handicap parking.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of December , 2016 approved with no changes. Motion made by Vernon and seconded by Swany to approve minutes. Vote 4 - 0 to accept minutes.

Next Meeting Scheduled for: February 9, 2016 @ 12PM

Meeting Adjourned at: 1:00PM Motion: Vernon/seconded Linda Vote 4-0 to adjourn.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by.
Linda Loren