

## **Commission on Disabilities, May 30, 2012 <>**

### **COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

7:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeffrey Dougan, Chairperson; Robert Tarantino; Christine Duane; Megan Romick; Ann Breen. ALSO PRESENT: John McLaughlin, Scituate resident; Jerry Fiermonte, Council on Aging; Steve Svensen,

1. Call to Order. Chairperson Jeffrey Dougan called the meeting to order at the Little Red Schoolhouse on Cudworth road.

Mr. Dougan asked that the agenda be taken out of order to accommodate Mr. Steve Svenson from the Recreation Department (item 4A).

#### **4. New Business**

##### **A) Scituate Recreation Department**

##### **o Discussion of ADA Responsibilities**

i. Beach access. Mr. Svensen said a Beach Commission is being formed and he will be a liaison from the Recreation Department to the commission. Mr. Svenson said that a beach wheelchair has been purchased as well as a portable mobimat to use with the chair; the shifting sand has presented a challenge for the use of the mat. The Recreation Department has limited responsibility for the beaches, but accessibility is a main interest of the Recreation Department. The Department of Public Works has the main responsibility for the beaches. Mr. Dougan said that the main concern is that two of Scituate's beaches are accessible, Humarock and another beach, whichever lends itself the best to being accessible. Getting people to the mean high water mark and any facilities is the goal. There are guidelines but no strict instructions. Mr. Svensen suggested a site visit to the beaches.

ii. Portable toilets. The state building code has obligations that there has to be at least one accessible portable toilet per "bank" of toilets at a park or recreational facility. Mr. Svensen said that portable toilets are under the jurisdiction of the DPW and he will find out who is in charge of them. Mr. Dougan will forward the regulations to the Recreation Department.

iii. New ADA obligations for public parks and recreational facilities. Mr. Dougan said included in the new obligations are fishing piers, boating areas, boardwalks, playgrounds, spectator and team seating. Changes do not have to be made right away but assessments must be made and as updates are made the obligations must be taken into account. Mr. Dougan said a five year or ten year mitigation plan is needed. Mr. Dougan said he will send information re beach access and the new ADA obligations to Mr. Svensen. Mr. Svensen also suggested a site visit to the fields to see what needs to be done.

iv. proposed Softball Field and Playground at the High School: This project is on hold but should it go forward it must be completely accessible.

2. Acceptance of Past Minutes. The April meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written 5-0.

#### **3. Old Business**

##### **A) MBTA – Greenbush**

o Fine Hearing – Update. Mr. Dougan said that the rescheduled fine hearing is in early June and he will let CoD members know the date.

##### **B) Transportation Options**

o GATRA Update. Mr. Fiermonte said that as of July 1 Scituate will be serviced by GATRA. Curb to curb service will be provided for the elderly and disabled. Those who are eligible will be notified.

##### **C) Marine Center**

o Update. Mr. Dougan will make a site visit to check the handrails have been corrected.

D)Inn @ Scituate Harbor

oThe new pub, accessible route concerns. Mr. Dougan asked if any CoD members have walked the accessible route and none had. He said that he will make a site visit.

E)Welch Co Building

oInaccessible Entrances. Mr. Duggan has not yet issued a CO for this building due to accessibility issues at the entrances.

F)Purple Dinosaur Accessible Swing/update. Ms. Breen reported that Mr. Breen of the DPW has the straps and that the swing will be put up. Mr. Dougan asked Ms. Breen to follow up to make sure it gets done.

G)HP funds/Discussion. Ms. Breen said the current total is \$2460.00. It was agreed to see if the Recreation Department will need assistance with accessible items such as portable toilets and to wait.

H)Doggie DayCare/Celtic Paws accessibility. Mr. Tarantino said that the HP sign has been removed. Mr. Dougan asked Mr. Tarantino to ask the owner about the sign.

I)Backyard Burger parking and accessibility. Mr. Dougan said the parking lot has been redone. He said there is a step down inside. Ms. Breen said she will make a site visit.

#### 4. New Business:

B) Fuel and maintenance for CoA van: Ms. Breen said that she will write a memo to the Town Accountant saying the CoA has the CoD's approval to send the bills directly to the Town Accountant for fuel and maintenance for the CoA vans.

C) Mr. Dougan said that reappointments are being made to the CoD and that he and Ms. Rommick will be reappointed. Mr. Dougan asked that CoD members consider who might want to take on the chairpersonship for the next year.

D) Mr. Dougan and the CoD thanked Ms. Martin Recording Secretary for her service as she is resigning her position.

E. Next meeting: June 20.

5. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote 5-0 at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Martin