



The Town of Millbury Commission on Disabilities

Municipal Office Building 127 Elm Street Millbury, Ma. 01527

Meeting Minutes

Date; October 8, 2015

Time; 6:30 PM

Present; Mike Kennedy; Chair, Kent Stowe; treasurer, Nancy Whittier, Cheryl Piasta, Debbi Dymek; Secretary, and Jim Clifford.

Guest;

Amanda Collins, editor of the Millbury-Sutton Chronicle

Meeting Minutes;

There were no official minutes for the September 10 meeting due to only three members and Frank Gagliardi, President of the Millbury Historical Museum in attendance.

Millbury Historical Society Chain of Lights Request:

Because the Chain of Lights celebration will be using the entire Asa Waters mansion, the Millbury Historical Society cannot display the TV/DVD set up in the Great Room in the mansion. The Society is requesting that the DVD and some of the articles from the museum be brought to the Millbury Library and displayed there, just for that day. The Historical Society is asking our permission to do so.

After some discussion, the Disability Commission voted unanimously for the Millbury Historical Society to bring the DVD and some articles over to the Millbury Library just for that day for the Chain of Lights celebration.

We also agreed that there should be proper signage informing the public that there will be more displays exhibited in the library.

Also a note be given to children to bring home announcing the Chain of Lights event and emphasis that there will be an exhibit in the library of articles that they can feel.

Asa Waters Bandstand Project:

An access complaint has been filed against the Asa Waters Task Force for lack of accessibility to the bandstand.

After the Disability Commission waiting for at least ten years, the Center for Living and Working filed this access complaint for lack of access to the bandstand.

A second notice was sent because there was no response after the first notice.

Town Manager, Bob Spain sent a letter to the AAB for a time variance.

Mike read the letter to the commission members which basically said that that the town knows that the bandstand should be handicap accessible, but he does not have the funds

to do so. He will have to put this matter on the town warrant for 2016 asking for the funds or as a second option, he will have to close the bandstand.

Hearing this, Mike feels that we are compelled to send a letter to the AAB with our opinion.

After some discussion among the members, Debbi entertained a motion to have Mike write a letter to the AAB on behalf of the Disability Commission opposing the time variance and access walkway request. Jim second the motion.

All members voted unanimously.

Members stated and all were in agreement that we only want a ramp.

Another variance request for the northwest corner of South Main St. and School St.

A width for a sidewalk path of travel.

In this case, there is a telephone pole planted in the path of travel giving only a 34-inch area to travel.

More of an issue is the transition of a driveway and the new sidewalk. This was unusable for anyone using a wheelchair.

Through correspondence with Mike and the DPW director and the engineer that did the work, Mike stated that if you wanted a variance for the width, but were willing to fix the transition, between the driveway and the beginning of the sidewalk, we could work something out.

Mike happened to drive by the area in question, and the transition problem had been corrected.

Cheryl made a motion and Nancy second the motion for Mike to send a letter that we as a commission agree that this area is passable. All members voted unanimously.

Downtown Infrastructure:

There is no progress on the curb cuts at the intersection on Main St. and Elm St. Now we are hearing that they will not be done until 2016.

Master Plan for Downtown:

An article was published in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette stating that if grants are given and a master plan is made for the beautification of downtown Millbury, we have to make sure that the Commission members are represented in this plan.

This is a future project, but we have to be involved in this project when it takes place.

Mike will send correspondence informing the town that we want to be represented in this project.

Mike also mentioned that we are still requesting one or two handicap parking spaces near the Elm Draft House Cinema.

Announcements:

Mike passed out information on changes on Open Meeting Laws for the COD.

This will be a subject for discussion at a future meeting.

Mike also read a letter of correspondence from Mr. McNeil informing us that the curb cuts will not take place until 2016. They are still getting quotes from contractors for this project.

There is a plan to update the pedestrian signals to current ADA standards when the ramps are done. The town is looking for grants to help with this project.


Debbi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kent second the motion.
The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be held on November 12, 2015

Respectfully submitted, 

Debbi Dymek
Secretary

; chair

, treasurer

Nancy Whittier

, vice chair



