

Bridgewater Disability Commission Meeting Agenda
Wednesday March 11th at 2 pm
Academy Building 2nd floor

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BRIDGEWATER, MA.

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Members in Attendance: Dave Frim ___ Henry Goldsmith ___ Anna Nakouzzi

___ Bob Bolger ___

Guests in Attendance: _____

Call to Order at 2 pm:

Review Meeting Notes from prior meeting.

Michael Dutton - Town Manger- Special Guest

1. Mr. Dutton would like the Bridgewater Disability Commission to review and discuss the town's plan for the Memorial Building. The town plans to renovate the existing structure according to agreed upon guidelines that maintain the historic nature of the building. The front entrance will also be made inclusive for people with disabilities by structuring a ramp toward the front door, without harming the historic nature of the building. One concern that the Disability Commission had expressed in the past was lack of safe parking for disabled residents.
2. Academy Building Parking update: The Bridgewater Disability Commission has suggested in past communications with Mr. Dutton that the limited parking at the Academy Building has a negative impact on the ability of seniors and people with disabilities to gain access to the Academy Building. There are 22 parking spots that are inclusive of the 2 handicap spots and the 4 spots for town vehicles. Town employees appear to utilize parking spots on a regular basis. Though several members on the Disability Commission need access to handicap parking spaces, we are more concerned about parking availability for all town residents that utilize the Academy Building.
3. Accessible Entrance to the Academy Building: The Disability Commission has pursued the importance of the side employee entrance being revamped into a more accessible entrance for our disabled and senior residents that cannot walk from parking lot to the main front door. Mr Dutton has informed us that the town was seriously looking into this important work. I understand that contractors have submitted bids and that we await town approval. The Commission would like to be updated as to the progress of this important project.
4. Bridgewater Disability commission is currently approved for 5 members. We would like to be approved for 6 members, and the ability to have 2 alternate members. We would like the town to consider a Commission member that lives outside of the town of Bridgewater. The importance of adding a member to our commission is the ability to achieve a quorum at meetings.
5. Recently, a copy of the Rail Vision and ADA Rail Planning in Public Rights was submitted to the commission to read in case our input was requested. Unfortunately, we are not afforded this type of information, nor is our input often requested. It seems that it could prove invaluable as the town moves forward in the Comprehensive Master

plan to have another set of eyes reviewing plans through the eyes of someone with disabilities. This could lead to cost savings on future projects.

6. Drop Box at Academy Building: It was brought to the attention of the Disability Commission that the Drop Box is in an awkward position that requires the person utilizing the box to exit vehicle and walk up to ramp to gain access. See enclosed picture for suggested move. This new location would allow person to park temporarily, exit car with minimum of steps, drop off mail, and return to car in just several steps. What do you think of this move?

7. Improve communication between Commissions to improve learning, build more teamwork, etc. Current commissions seem somewhat isolated?

New commission member has completed application and applied for open position. Introduce new applicant. Applicant has several suggestions for a change in meeting venue and several other ideas.

BSU Volunteer Project: Meeting between Emily Williams and Zach Chipman.

Marathon Park update: Moving handicap parking in front of Marathon Park entrance. Follow up with Parks and Recreation.

Disability Commission Annual report was presented on Tuesday March 10th at the Town Council Meeting. Discuss.

Application was made to the Oliari Charitable Foundation. We can work with local banks as discussed in prior meetings. Application was made for Literacy Place at Bridgewater Savings Bank. We can do the same for Disability Commission.

Bridgewater Nursing Home Easter Visit: A request was made of our group to work with Elder Affairs Commission to plan an Easter visit, replete with Easter Basket and goodies on the Wednesday or Thursday prior to Easter- April 8th or 9th. What is the general consensus?

We would have to plan and work quickly to pull this together.

Open Dialogue: Questions and Discussion.

Next Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th at 2 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at ____ time.

As always, Thank you for joining us and participating in the Bridgewater Disability Commission Meeting.