

August Lancaster Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2019

Present: Chairman Michael McCue, Carolyn Stump, Daryl Blaney, Rose Bissonnette

Absent: Lesley Allison, Lorry Doucet, Marilyn Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm on August 20.

1. **Minutes of the July 16th meeting** were reviewed. Amendments were required and the July minutes will be updated, and then approved at next meeting.
2. **Town matters:** The commission discussed ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan proposals that were made to Orlando Pacheco, and agreed that it made sense for the town to engage *The Center for Living and Working* (Worcester, MA) to do the plan. The Center was one of two entities that made proposals to the town. The primary reasons for the commission's recommendation were because of the Center's familiarity and expertise with Massachusetts laws, the Mass AAB, Mass MOD, and their extensive experience in ADA planning for numerous small central Mass. towns.
3. Chair McCue was pleased to announce to the commission that the town was actively engaged in making the Gazebo on the town green accessible, with the goal of having the work complete before October Accessibility Awareness Month. He also informed the commission that the town purchased a roll-out mat to serve as the pathway to the gazebo. The commission then discussed the pros and cons of such mats and while they agreed that mats were indeed a good idea and viable, there were several concerns such as the following:
 - a.) The mat should stay in place on the green at all times (with the exception of course with high winter, when snows make the green impassible). Otherwise, if the intension is to only roll it out for some events during the summer etc. and then pack it away for much of the time, it would defeat the purpose of providing accessibility on demand *whenever* any person(s) want or need access to the Gazebo, i.e. the mat should provide the same full time accessilbity to the gazebo for a disabled person, as a person without a disability already has to the gazebo.
 - b.) Another concern is the mat shifting or moving when wheeled on, or when walkers or canes come in contact with it. Otherwise, the mat may need to be staked down at certain spots to prevent shifting.
 - c.) The approach from the asphalt onto the green should be level and that the pitch rise/ run of the entire path should comply with ADA. (Same of course, with the Gazebo ramp itself which needs to be ADA compliant)
4. The commission agreed that the town should publicize the fact that there is an accessible beach chair at the town beach. By publicizing, more residents with disabilities would become aware of this feature, visit the beach, and put the chair to use.

5. Lancaster October Accessibility Awareness Month (LAAM):

The commission finalized and agreed on carrying out the following activities and events for October:

- Collaborating with Thayer Memorial Library (TML) to produce and display an impressive 23-panel exhibit on the History of Disability in Society. This would be a major feature and TML is interested in how the COD can raise the profile of this feature by perhaps having it be introduced by a political dignitary or official, etc. at an opening event. TML would pay for most of the cost of printing the panels and the COD would contribute a nominal amount from its tiny budget. The total out of pocket costs for the panels will exceed \$800.00.
- Church event(s) such as a special Accessibility Sabbath at The College Church, and possibly others such as The First Church of Christ/ Bullfinch
- School Activities at Mary Rowlandson and Luther Burbank and possibly others such as Perkins, Browning, SLA, that integrate accessibility into their curriculums
- Exhibit at The Lancaster Health and Wellness Fair
- Publicize LAAM and its events and activities, in local and regional media

LAAM Action Items:

- All COD members to contact schools and churches to inquire on how they might or will, implement LAAM activities (**MM**: Mary Rowlandson and Luther, **RB**: First Church of Christ, Perkins, **DB**: Browning, SLA, Village Church, **CS**: College Church)
- **MM** to investigate/ inquire on TML event introduction via dignitaries
- **MM** to sign up for Health Fair booth space

6. Miscellaneous:

Daryl Blaney brought to the commission's attention the fact that both he, as well as Lorry Doucet's, terms as members of the COD had expired in June 2019, but had apparently not been informed of this by the town. Chair McCue advised he would follow up to notify Town Clerk of this oversight and to send out notices to Daryl and Lorry.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael S. McCue, COD Chair

