

**COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY**  
**Minutes for 1/12/2017**

Attending: Jean Goldsberry (Chair), David Holdorf (Clerk), Marybeth Barker, Jennifer Brooke, Nora McShane, Carole Wayland (Guest)

Meeting called to order at 5:15.  
Minutes of 12/8/2016 approved.

**Old Business**

The Bank of America branch in Concord Center has moved the push plate for the accessible entrance, thanks to the intervention of the BOA Regional Facilities Manager, and according to Marybeth, it is acceptable. Signage has also been installed.

A Town warrant article for the change of our Committee to a Commission is being written by Chris Whelan, as requested by the Selectmen. It was suggested that the opportunity be taken by our Committee at TM to explain our mission and increase our visibility, via a handout and a short presentation by our Committee.

**New Business**

Planning for 2017 is a work in progress. Followup on voice enhancement/closed captioning for the hearing disabled at TM is one issue currently in abeyance and might be re-examined. Other unresolved issues (unspecified) will also be addressed. It is expected that individual situations will continue to be brought before the Committee for action on a regular basis.

Carole Wayland, Executive Director of 51 Walden, the Town-owned performing arts venue, presented a consultant's study which makes the case to the AAB that the facility, while needing accessibility updates, is not subject to a prohibitively expensive complete accessibility overhaul. The AAB has pinpointed the facility for a complete overhaul because of the potential that repairs and improvements over the years, particularly 2003-2006, tipped the 30% of building value benchmark which would precipitate such an overhaul. The exhaustive consultants study documented all such expenditures and concluded that the 30% threshold had not been breached. Therefore, Carole and her Board will schedule a meeting with the AAB to resolve the issue, while at the same time proposing various upgrades to the bathroom and exterior ramp, plus a portable lift to get handicapped performers to the stages, 32" and 13" respectively off the seating floor. This Committee will write a letter of support for these improvements, additionally citing the extraordinary value of the facility to our Town.

The February meeting was rescheduled from Feb. 9 to Feb. 2.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Notes recorded by David Holdorf, Clerk