



Concord Commission on Disability Meeting

Minutes

February 11th, 2021

Present: Jean Goldsberry, Chair, Mary Beth Barker, Janet Beyer, Karen Young, Jane Hotchkiss, Bonnie Albright, Carmen Jaquier, Meryl Schwartz, Alan Whitney, Jennifer Brooke, Ingrid Detweiler

Guests: Pam Rockwell, Chair member of the planning committee for the 2229 Main St - STARMET site.

Old Business

Town Accommodations for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People: The "Hearing Group" requested the opportunity to complete a review of equipment before presenting to the Commission on their finding. The process is moving ahead, though they are not yet ready to meet with the select board.

Parking at 136 Sudbury Road: Jean reported that she and Jennifer Brooke had drafted a letter to the owner of the property with information regarding the necessary alteration to the parking area. The letter will be sent to both the property's address as well as the owner's home address. The handicap decal can then be painted on the space and signage added.

New Business

STARMET Use Plans: Pam Rockwell, chair member of the planning committee for the 2229 Main Street site presented the committees project to the commission for feedback. The cleanup of the site is a 5-7 year project. The committee has developed a "Master Plan" concept that they will report to the Select Board. The plan aims to integrate a multiple integrated use, environmental stewardship, fiscal sustainability and community synergy into the site. The site is 46 acres, approximately 26 or which are left untouched. There are some undevelopable wetlands, that would be preserved as a destination areas for bird watching, with a viewing platform and parking. Pam presented three version of use;

- Indoor community space
- Office/ Medical & Housing
- Mixed use concentrated

One of the main goals of the committee is to engage in risk communication. Pam reported that many residents are uncomfortable with the idea of housing on a Super Fund site, even after extensive cleanup has been made. The Army is charged with cleaning the area to a residential standard. The Town will not own the liability for the site. The committee has an online feedback form, due by March 3rd 2021, that addresses housing, recreation and accessibility questions.

An exchanged followed the report by Pam Rockwell, by members of the Commission who expressed their views. Janet expressed a need for more housing that is accessible and a new senior center in town. Meryl expressed the need for truly affordable housing and a development with a community center. Mary Beth stated that she feels uncomfortable using the site for housing, especially for historically marginalized groups and that the committee consider the environmental justice aspect of their proposal. Bonnie expressed concerns about the site being isolated by its lack of walkability to

commerce. Jennifer stated that she did believe that the site can be clean to a residential standard. She stated that at location is not ideal for commercial spaces, but could be appropriate for affordable housing if consideration was given to making the trails walkable, side walk improvements made and steps taken to control the traffic issues. Karen echoed Jennifer's concerns with regards to accessibility and traffic and infrastructure issues at the intersection, including public transportation. She would be more in favor of a community center. Meryl suggested that the STARMET site committee present their plans to the transportation committee to get their feedback. Jean asked that the committee insure that whatever is built be fully accessible, using universal design, that the trails are accessible with accessible parking in accordance with ADA guidelines.

Pam will take the Commission's comments back to the committee.

Correspondence and Miscellaneous

Requests for funding: Two requests have been made to the commission for funding

- A group of parents have requested funding for a pre-recorded ASL video to be made to accompany a dramatics program in the spring.
- The Concord Rotary club has asked for partial funding for an accessible drinking fountain to be installed at the Concord Bell Memorial.

The Commission has approx.. \$5,380 in available funds generated from handicap parking fines. An application form for grant requests will be designed by Jean for future requests. Jane offered to access to forms that other committees have used for grant applications. Mary Beth also offered to help with the formulation of the application form. Meryl expressed concern about the commissions viability in the community and the type of communication and publicizing the commission should do prior to accepting grant applications. Both Bonnie and Jennifer stated the need to consider how grants would meet the needs of the community, the need to set criteria and goals for applicants.

51 Walden: The property is required to install a \$370,000 ventilation system. A request was made for an additional variance. The commission has recognized the progress that has been made towards accessibility. Jennifer stated that she strongly supports the variance. Bonnie supports the variance and asks that they present a walk-through to show the challenges individuals with mobility issues would face using the facility. Jennifer Brooke proposed a motion to support the variance, Meryl seconded and the commission unanimously approved.

Changes to White Pond: Following the feedback from the commission, a number of changes were incorporated into the White Pond design. The length of the path remains the same, but an additional four rest areas were included with space for a bench and equipment. The drop-off area proposed an new access to the beach via a combined ramp and graded staircase down to a mobi matt.

Jennifer expressed concern with the lack of handrails, and the blurred edges of the stair with sand. The commission suggested that the stair instead be replaced with a universal ramp.

The next meeting will be Thursday February 25th at 5:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Lauren Barretta