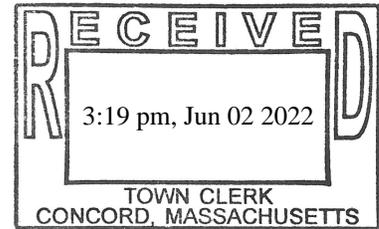


Commission on Disability
March 10, 2022
Minutes



Meeting called to order 5:02
Jean Goldsberry, chair

Members: Mary Beth Barker, Janet Beyer, Karen Young, Susan Bates, Meryl Schwartz,
Jennifer Brook, Lloyd Price

Guests: Phil Posner, Mark Gallius, Tasha Gallius, Bob Andrews

Minutes approved as amended

Jean recommended we are represented at the upcoming Selectboard meeting
Selectmen meeting on transportation.

Transportation: Mary Beth submitted a statement to be put with committee minutes.

Jennifer: Regarding Bruce Freeman Rail Trail through West Concord pocket park. Our
goal should not be to try to solve the problem but to suggest ways to make
transportation accessible.

Susan: Agreed with Jennifer's take.

The owner of Club Car Cafe is a tenant at will and the property belongs to the MBTA
therefore change cannot be made around or to the property.

Jean: Jennifer is right it is our duty to provide information, rather than to fix the problem.

Regarding the Reformatory Branch Trail: Guests Tasha and Mark Gallius talked about
their warrant article and a different take on the trail. They want little done to the trail, as
opposed to the warrant article that promotes changes to make it more accessible.
They pointed out that the trail is maintained by trails committee. Almost one mile of the
trail is in direct contact with US Fish and Wildlife's Great Meadows. And it has an
impact on rare species habitat as cited 1995 bikeway study

The article they are presenting at Town Meeting is advisory. It is a recommendation that
the trail continue to be maintained in an unpaved natural condition.

Second part of the article asks that if changes are done to accommodate people with
reduced mobility those changes are done with the least injury to trees and to the
existing natural characteristics of the trail

Mary Beth: I do not have a problem using my bicycle on the trail. I think it would be
wonderful to have it accessible for a wheelchair but I hope the feasibility study would do
as little damage as possible to make it accessible.

It was agreed that the Route 62 crossing at the Bedford line is a problem.

Bedford current plan is for an underpass under route 62. And they plan to put a
parking lot there.

Janet: listened to Phil Posner's Selectboard presentation about his warrant article
concerning improvements to the Reformatory Branch Trail. She concluded that he

added nothing in this talk to the information he gave when he spoke to the committee. She pointed out that though people are under the impression some paving was being considered, she did not hear that mentioned.

Jennifer: I want to bring this back around to accessibility not about the trees or turtles.

Tanya: The work that goes into the construction would disturb the wildlife.

Nancy Cronin mentioned the advisory warrant article that would prevent any changes to the natural environment of the trail.

Correspondence: The Commission received a message from the Disabled Persons Protection Commission. They would talk to us. Jean sees this as informational. She will get in touch with them to make a presentation about abuse.

Jean received correspondence about the Blanding Turtles and one from Phil Posner that she will summarize for us.

Guest Phil Posner: The transportation committee and trail committee are planning to have a site visit to the trail.

Jean: I don't see the need for our commission to support either of these articles.

Marybeth I am not clear about how the articles are different.

Susan: One asks for money. And with school building and money for housing, I am concerned about the financing.

Jean: Ginger Quayles from the Council on Aging would like to come to one of our meetings and Jean will invite a representative from the abuse committee to attend a meeting.

Meryl: The town has a social service coordinator and I wonder if we might hear from that person.

MaryBeth I wonder if it would be worthwhile to have Erin Stevens, the town public information coordinator, come to a meeting a find out how to increase our profile

Karen: We need to find ways to make our commission known to people

Guest Rose O'Neil: There are lot of issues in Concord. It would be good if there were a map of accessible places.

Mary Beth: At one point we talked about talking to the building inspector and learn the best way to get the building inspector to check on buildings that are non-compliant

Meeting adjourned 6:14

Next Meeting April 14.