



**Present :** Jean Goldsberry, Janet Beyer, Karen Young, Bonnie Albright, Meryl Schwartz, Lloyd Price, Marybeth Barker, Susan Bates  
**Guest:** Richard Fahlander BFRT

**Minutes:** Decision was made to table approving the minutes of June meeting until next month.

**Use of powered mobility devices for disability on the Bruce Freeman Trail.** Golf carts, are recognized as mobility devices when used by a person due to disability. However, they are not permitted on trails and in some environments if they pose a danger due to their size. All present agreed that golf carts are too wide to be used safely on most parts of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Devices such as Segways, if being used for mobility, would be permitted. E Bikes are also permitted. For many reasons it is unlikely anyone would request to use a golf cart on the bike trail. However, after a discussion it was generally agreed that if someone were to request use of a golf cart due to disability the matter would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Questions were raised about the enforcement and policing of the BFRT. Richard reported that the Concord Police patrol the Concord portion of the trail and have authority over crime and accidents only. There is no authority charged with enforcing or issuing tickets to persons in violation of BFRT policies that do not meet the level of a crime.

The absence of a curb cut adjacent to the bridge crossing Nashoba Brook, which caused an access problem to the BFRT, is in process of being corrected.

**Status of Virtual/ In person meetings :** Jean reported that the Commonwealth of MA although initially ruling in favor of resuming pre-Covid Open Meeting Laws, which allowed only in person meetings, recently walked back their decision and decided to permit hybrid meetings. Susan Bates reported that this decision will stand until April 2022. Jean noted that, as was the case pre- Covid, after April 2022, disability commissions will continue to be allowed to have two members participate remotely as long as there is a quorum in the room. Susan Bates concurred.

**Use of Parking Fee Funds:** Bonnie and Jennifer are in the process of gathering information, which Bonnie described as a slow process, and there are no updates.

**Selection of a Commission Chair :** Jean stated that she willing to continue as Chair of the Disability Commission or is willing to step down if someone else would like to take on the role. No one expressed interest in becoming the Chair and several members made statements in support of Jean continuing in the role. Janet made a motion that Jean Goldsberry continue as Chair of the Commission and Lloyd Price seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call and the decision that Jean continue as Chair passed unanimously.

**Selection of Clerk:** Janet Beyer volunteered to be the official Clerk. Lauren Barretta from Council on Aging has been taking the minutes as she was available due to Covid circumstances. Her ability to continue is unknown and since Lauren is not a member of the Commission she cannot be the official clerk. A recording of the meeting will be available, at least short term, as back up for as long as the

Town is doing meetings via Zoom. Meryl made a motion that Janet Beyer become the Clerk, motion was seconded by Lloyd. A vote was taken by roll call and the motion that Janet become Clerk was passed unanimously.

**Review of the Charter:** Each section of current Charter was reviewed and discussed. The word “Committee” will be changed to Commission and “Board of Selectmen” will be changed to Select Board. It was decided that Membership section be revised and language related to the number of members and the length of terms will be revised to reflect the present policy. Otherwise, it was agreed that the other sections of Charter serve us well. Jean agreed to edit the Membership Section.

Bonnie suggested that we adopt a practice, she learned of from a colleague, of starting each meeting by stating our purpose/ mission and the date. Other members were supportive of the idea and Bonnie agreed to rewrite the purpose section to make it less lengthy.

**Goals for 2022:** Bonnie and Jennifer will continue working to develop plans on use of Commission funds for awards and grants that are consistent with state regulations, our mission and our values. Other ideas were the production of a brochure that highlights our mission, to find ways to increase media coverage, to continue the work Lloyd and Kate Hodges started to review and revise the written language used for town notices and information to make it more accessible to citizens that have literacy challenges or other cognitive disabilities. Also suggested was to work with the Chamber of Commerce to increase awareness among local businesses, to create an Accessibility Award, present to the Select-board, invite members of the building inspection and planning department to increase awareness around housing and importance of universal design. Accessible and universal housing design is the focus of Bonnie’s academic work. She offered to present the findings of the work she has been doing with the City of Cambridge to our Commission and suggests we invite members of Concord Building and Planning Departments to hear her presentation. In addition, an opportunity to present to the Rotary club in August was discussed.

Prepared by Marybeth Barker