

**BRATTLEBORO TOWN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
For AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT  
MINUTES FOR MARCH 2012**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**The Brattleboro ADA committee is dedicated to creating awareness of ADA concerns while providing information about, advocacy for, and solutions to the Town's ADA-related needs and issues.**

03/09/2012 - Meeting convened at 10:07AM with Whitney Nichols presiding.

Present: Whitney, Gary Snyder, Candace Stoumen, Geni Tamerattia, Bob Sisler, Rick Ethier. Public attendance: Joe Hart.

Absent: Leah Stuart, Liz Snyder, Mary Habig, Steve Steidle, Missy Boothroyd, Barbara Sondag.

Minutes of February 2012: Geni made amendment to include phone numbers for Jan Terck, PR of The MOOVers of West Dover, VT. 802-464-8487. Approval of February minutes: Gary made the motion, Whitney 2<sup>nd</sup>, all were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Town Representation: Rick E. or Barb S. will attend each meeting. If Rick and Barb both cannot attend a meeting, then a Substitute must be sent in their place. Candi stated that she is so grateful that the Town officers can attend these meetings.
- REITERATION: All members of this ADA committee MUST send email to the Chair if they cannot attend a meeting!
- We will speak to the town about relocating these meetings to the municipal center; due to too many conflicts and mistaken over-bookings occurring at the Marlboro Center.
- TOWN TRANSITION PLAN : Whitney to Rick > Track down Barb/Jan to get updated copy of this plan, and a review of the Town's ADA progress from inception to date. Rick was recalling in the early days that public signage was done and the Town Hall was made Accessible.
- DRAFT OF HOUSE TRANSPORTATION BILL Mollie Burke reports to Whitney that there is a major issue now and the bill has effectively been terminated for this legislative year.
- ADA COMMITTEE GOALS FOR 2012 Candi made the motion to move ADA Committee Goals review from Old Business status to New Business. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote carried and now ADA committee goals 2012 will be discussed as New Business each month.
- Candi also stated she would like to see us choosing ONE GOAL only for the year. A visible town project that will have a "Beginning, a middle, and a Finish" She suggested two parking lots on Flat St. that currently do not have appropriate accessible spaces. Discussion ensued with Rick E. pointing out that the necessary spaces are inclusive in the lower level of the parking garage. End discussion. So, a New Project will have to be determined at future meeting.
- VTRANS PUBLIC HEARING UPDATE No update this month, per Whitney.
- STATUS OF CHANGE IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION Mary not in attendance.
- CONDITION & ACCESSIBILITY OF SIDEWALKS RE: Gary to Selectboard. Meeting was cancelled due to Town Meeting Day. Will meet again on 3/20/2012. Wants to have Mike Charron and Kim Brittenham attend.
- Sidewalk Proposal Canal Street repairs: Rick has read it and is "totally against it". He stated: "...cannot put 50' of structure into 20' space." Also, cost is millions dollars. Rick: "Who is the Driver behind this whole proposal? Based on the 'Walk-Around' in 2011
- NEW AGENDA ITEM FOR APRIL MEETING: Rick will bring the Plan.

**NEW BUSINESS MARCH**

- Candi will contact Jennifer of AARP to invite her to one of our ADA meetings.
- Missy Boothroyd cannot attend meetings until a ASL interpreter provided. Geni T. will contact Jan and find out if funding provided for ASL interpreters to attend meetings
- ADA COMMITTEE GOALS 2012

Candi suggest choosing One Project and follow it through to completion.

RE: the Latchis parking lot. Gary offered to speak to the Selectboard regarding: Does the Latchis have to provide Accessible Parking Spaces?

- Parking Garage. Gary will check to see if 'VAN Accessible' spaces on lower level.
- SIDEWALKS VS SIDE LANE IN TOWN Bob S., is concerned whether or not it is legal to use the small lane between the sidewalks and the white line in the roadway for motorized chairs. We tabled this issue to the April meeting to be located under the topic: VTRANS, re: sidewalk up entire Putney Road.
- Whitney to Candi -> What is being done regarding Accessible Parking spaces for Co-Op tenants in the new building? Our investigation of this issue will begin in April.
- UNITED WE RIDE INITIATIVE Whitney reported on this. He cited: disability.gov as an excellent resource. Geni asked if this initiative is a venue for posting/receiving rides to events like this meeting. Whitney stated he will contact Mary H. and ask her to bring materials to our April meeting so that we can begin to explore the Initiative in detail.
- CONDITION OF SIDEWALKS IN TOWN The current conditions of our town sidewalks are in violation of new Federal laws. Bob S. said he has spoken with Barb Sondag regarding tht in the case of his motorized chair becoming damaged/breakdown due to the rugged nature of the town sidewalks he is going to submit the repair bill to the Town. She told Bob, "Yes, do that"
- STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALLS We will have a specific goal to setting this up. Candi revised this to : Whitney will email mid-month(20<sup>th</sup>) the upcoming agenda. After this becomes : Free-for-all emailing questions/comments/follow-up zone., rather than a conference call. BEGIN THISMONTH: WHITNEY WILL EMAIL TO ALL THE AGENDA ON 3<sup>RD</sup> FRIDAY EVERY MONTH. Everyone is then free to call, email with their questions, comments, follow-ups, proposals for next meeting.
- CANDACE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS 4 SPECIAL NEEDS BOOKLET Candi handed out to everyone. She offers to give a talk to the committee at some future date , if requested.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Candi: we have never talked about people who have Invisible Disabilities. How do we move forward on this topic? Whitney added that there is a National organization for people with hidden disabilities and he will bring in information next month. Geni added that she is willing to contact Chris Pratt to invite him as a future speaker to this meeting.

GARY-> POSTMASTER BRATTLEBORO Conversation: re: Ramp @Main Post Office is in bad shape.

Postmaster said he has contacted the maintenance people, no response. He told Gary to contact the District Mgr.

MOTION was made to adjourn meeting @11:30am. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Candi. Meeting adjourned.

APRIL MEETING: Friday 13 April @10:00

Respectfully submitted,

Geni Tamerattia

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3/14/2012