

**BRATTLEBORO TOWN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
For AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
MINUTES FOR APRIL 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.

4/13/2012 - Meeting convened at 10:10AM with Whitney Nichols presiding.

Present: Whitney, Gary Snyder, Candace Stoumen, Geni Tamerattia, Bob Sisler, Rick Ethier, Barbara Sondag, Liz Snyder. Guest Attendance: Jennifer Wallace of AARP, Burlington, VT.

Absent: Leah Stuart, Mary Habig, Steve Steidle, Missy Boothroyd, .

Minutes of March 2012: Rick made amendment to replace his comment "totally against it" and "cannot fput 50' of structure into 20' of space" to: "we have to adjust the Proposal to the space we have available to put it in." Approval of March minutes: Bob made the motion, Candi 2nd, 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.
- **REITERATION:** All members of this ADA committee MUST send email to the Chair if they cannot attend a meeting!
- **MEETING LOCATION:** Candi confirmed that Kelly has now blocked off every 2nd Friday for these meetings to occur at the Marlboro Graduate Center.
- **PROGRESS ON TOWN TRANSITION PLAN:** Barb stated that the Town has a Health & Safety Committee. This committee is overseen by the Town Manager. She suggests that the Town merges our ADA Committee's Transition Plan with the Health & Safety Committee. Then we will have added assistance of cooperation from this committee. When they go "on-site" to audit for health and safety issues, they can also audit for ADA compliance.

Barb also stated that the Town will be working on these actual Transition Plan assessments of sites; then, the actual Transition Plan will materialize in the Fall 2012.

Candi asked: When does the H&Safety committee meet?

- **STATUS OF CHANGES IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** Tabled due to absence of Mary Habig, due to medical leave.
- **CONDITION & ACCESSIBILITY OF SIDEWALKS:** Gary is still communicating with the Postmaster Brattleboro. He told Gary to contact the District Mgr. Gary is attempting to locate the District Mgr. USPS at this time.
- Gary checked into Latchis Hotel parking. Currently there is not one ADA compliant accessible parking space in their lot of 23 spaces.
- **NEW AGENDA ITEM FOR MAY MEETING:** Rick will bring the Plan.

NEW BUSINESS APRIL

- Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur from Burlington, VT chapter of AARP gave a presentation of follow up from the study done on Canal Street last year in September. They propose a "Liveable Community Agenda" where we look at our individual communities with the goal of Providing a Sustainable Thriving Lifestyle for all citizens well into their senior years of life.

Jennifer reviewed the Sidewalk Assessment of September 2011; these were done in several communities around the state. Funding was given for a Specialist to analyze the 'walkability' and the 'livability'. In Brattleboro, grant of \$3000.00 was given to help implement one of the projects: BMH campus to Fairground Rd., and the Price Chopper intersection. There was a workshop on 1 November 2011 led by specialist Dan Burden. Since much walking & biking occurs on these streets by school children, residents. Determined there

are not enough crosswalks in this zone. Auto speeds are too fast : 35-45mph. Additionally, snow is plowed onto these sidewalks rendering them impassable. Priority is being given to autos, not to pedestrians. A short-term project was brain-stormed at this workshop. = 100-Day strategy. 1. Put in small median crosswalk, 2. also bike lanes. 3. Reach out to property owners in this zone. 4. Beautify the 'Gateway' into town, I.e., Exit 1 entry into town.

Jennifer stated that volunteers are welcome to become involved with this group. Her email is:

jwbrodeur@aar.org. Phone: 866-227-7451.

Liz stated that the BMH (hospital) campus 360 degrees needs to be upgraded to accessibility and safety codes for ADA community and biking.

Whitney wondered why our Committee had not been invited to this Workshop.

There was discussion on the need for a Community Awareness Campaign for education and awareness to teach the citizens to be Courteous, Slow Down, Pay Attention while driving in this community.

Barbara stated that there is a Task Force now looking at this section (Belmont/Canal). So far they have determined that because of the grade of the road, an engineer needs to be called in for consultation. This engineer will be asked to look at multiple zones in town. Also what complicates this project is the overlay of state route 5 on top of Canal Street.

Jennifer stated that progress will occur through small steps, small successes.

Whitney ended the discussion by stating that this 'Canal Street Safe Streets* Project would be a perfect focus for our ADA COMMITTEE GOALS 2012 where we select a 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.
- Geni asked about the group mentioned in the Wknd Reformer, (April 7,8 2012) which met regarding pedestrian safety in this town. She had spoken with Kim Brittenham recently (VCIL ADA specialist) and Kim would like to see a presence on this task force from our (ADATAC) advisory committee. Barbara stated that she will send Whitney an invitation to this group. It is comprised of members of BPD, safe bikes, safe streets
- Whitney to Candi : What is being done regarding Accessible Parking spaces for Co-Op tenants in the new building? Candi: there is not one accessible parking space in the new Co-Op construction plan. Whitney will contact Connie Snow of WWHT(windham/Windsor housing trust). Genie will contact Kim Brittenham at VCIL. Whitney will also check online regarding ADA rules for hi-density living/downtown zone accessible parking.
- UNITED WE RIDE INITIATIVE Whitney reported on this. He cited: www.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 May 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"
- REMINDER: STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALLS Candi revised this to : Whitney will email mid-month(20th) the upcoming agenda. After this becomes : Free-for-all zone to email questions/comments/follow-up, rather than a conference call. WHITNEY WILL EMAIL TO ALL THE AGENDA ON 3RD FRIDAY EVERY MONTH. Everyone is then free to call, email with their questions, comments, follow-ups, proposals for next meeting.
- SELECTBOARD MEETINGS : Liz mentioned that the Selectboard has requested attendance by our members. The Selectboard meetings are the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 6:15pm, Municipal center, 2nd floor Suite 212.
- TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: Barbara will have Jan warn us for these meetings.

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.

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

MAY MEETING: Friday 11 May @10:00, Suite 200 Marlboro Graduate Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Geni Tamerattia

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4/19/2012