

Brattleboro ADA Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes for August 10, 2012

Present: Whitney Nichols, Gary Snider, Elizabeth Snider and Missy Bothroyd.

Other: Mary Habig

Absent: Leah Stuart, Bob Sisler, Candice Stoumen, Joe Hart, Rick Ethier, Steven Steidle, Barbara Sondag.

Meeting called to order at 10:14 am.

Whiney opened the meeting up with reading the Mission Statement.

Motion to approve the June 8, 2012 Minutes was made by, Gary Snider and 2nd by Elizabeth Snyder. Unanimously.

Old Business:

ADA Town Transition Plan: Whitney is going to contact Barb Sondag to see if they can meet to update the Town Transition Plan.

SILC Report: Whitney reported that Barbara Donovan, VTrans Administrator was present for the SILC Meeting in Randolph on June 20th. Whitney stated it was nice having her there, as she was able to hear first hand the struggles/difficulties people with disabilities have getting public transportation. Whitney and Peter Johnke were guest speakers. Mary stated Whitney did a great job speaking, as he was able to throw in a little humor to keep everyone's attention. Whitney stated he was invited to represent SILC, which is appointed by the Governor.

ADA Logo: Whitney sent the ADA Logo to Jennifer Brodeur-Wallace, AARP, to see if it is appropriate to use. He is hoping the ADA Logo will be used at the next town function, like the West Brattleboro Walk.

Low Hanging Trees: Gary contacted the Town of Brattleboro about the concerns expressed about low hanging trees; the trees have been trimmed and cut back.

New Business:

Bicycle Suitability Maps: Whitney passed around a Bicycle Suitability Map he was able to obtain from the Windham Region Commission Office.

Interrupter: Missy reported VCIL was able to contract an Interrupter for one year for the ADA Meetings. The committee was happy to hear this, as it will allow more people to attend these meetings. Missy will let others know.

Brattleboro Sidewalks: Gary stated after nearly being thrown off his wheelchair while on the sidewalk near the bridge going to Hinsdale, he attended the Selectboard Meeting and expressed his concerns. The town is going to fix the sidewalks once the Co-op is completed. Gary stated he feels he has not alternative but to file a complaint with the Justice Dept if the town fails to fix the sidewalks.

Gary also stated he was able to procure a ramp with the NH side of the bridge so it will be safer for wheelchairs and bicycles.

Gary also stated the ramps/sidewalks and an area near the gazebo at the Elliott Building are currently being worked on.

The committee expressed their appreciation to Gary for being so active in assuring concerns are being not only heard, but corrective action is being taken.

Elizabeth had concerns about the New Co-op not having a safe drop off location for tenant that are in wheelchairs. The committee referred her to Windham Housing Trust.

New Bus Routes: Mary advised the group the new bus routes will not start on Aug 27th as planned, as CRT is awaiting the final signature from NH. She provided handouts with the new routes. Elizabeth expressed concerns on her particular trips. Mary advised her she would have the Operations Dept call her to discuss her options.

Dangerous Crossing Area for Pedestrians: Missy expressed concern of the crossing area near the Burger King. She has a friend, who is deaf that works at Burger King who must cross near the yellow flashing light. It is very dangerous and Missy and others fear for their safety. Gary is going to look into this and see what can be done.

Next meeting will be Friday, Sept 14, 2012 at 10:00 am.

Mary asked if it would be ok to have an ADA Public Hearing concerning the New Routes after the Sept. 14th meeting, at 11:15 am. The committee welcomed the idea. Missy requested an Interpreter for the Public Hearing.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am with a motion made by Gary and 2nd Elizabeth.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Mary E. Habig