

Minutes of Sept 9, 2016 ADA committee meeting

Attending: Gary Snyder, Reuben Tamler, Julie Tamler
Absent with notice: Gail Kennedy Haines, Elizabeth Snyder

Attending from public: Whitney Nichols

Opened at 10:00am

All approved minutes of previous meeting.

Posters: All printed posters (on voting, sidewalks and disability friendly events) have been posted. Was decided to ask town to make black and white copies of Voting Posters- to be more widely distributed by committee. Other posters would be printed and distributed more widely next spring and summer.

Update on wheelchair accessibility issues: Elizabeth is writing up addresses with one line note about accessibility issues for sidewalks. Gary will have Elizabeth send Julie the notes which will then be passed on to the town.

Update on memo to town about voting accessibility: Gail has not written the memo due to her health issues. Julie will try to write the memo this month. The memo will outline issues already discussed with the town secretary a number of months ago.

The town's voting location has been changed, apparently for accessibility reasons. Julie will visit the site to review it and to help educate those connected with the site.

Gallery Walk table: Whitney will send Julie link for more information on hidden disabilities for possible use at tables.

Presentation: Whitney spoke about invisible disabilities and on a workshop he recently attended. Whitney will help us understand at the next meeting how/if the ADA committee can work with these issues.

Update on Town Forms dealing with accessibility issues: Town Manager Peter Elwell came to the meeting around 10:30.

The chair asked Mr. Elwell to speak first about press releases he had which outlined steps people with disabilities could take to have First Responders (fire and rescue) know who we are, where we live, what our specific needs are. Mr Elwell mentioned this might be a good thing to send out periodically, a few times a year.

Town Manager then discussed various aspects of sidewalk accessibility issues:

The town has a system in place for accessibility and zoning issues. The appropriate person is contacted, views the site, determines whether it's an issue that needs to be rectified immediately or not, and determines who is responsible for fixing issue (land or store owner or town).

It was expressed that it will be helpful for the town to receive our notices (with address and one line explaining the accessibility issue). Twenty notices a month would be a reasonable number for the town to handle.

The town will view the site within a reasonable amount of time (one to ten days generally) and will then follow procedure (outlined in a paragraph above). The town will then keep the ADA committee informed (when asked) as to decisions and progress for the specific notices.

Fixing some of the issues (replacing a sidewalk) may take a year. Clearing brush may take a day.

The town notifies land owner/store keeper when appropriate, waits approximately two weeks to have issue dealt with. If issue is not resolved, town sends another notice informing them that legal action will be taken if necessary. If issue is not resolved, town does take legal action.

Town Manager outlined steps the town is taking to create clear crosswalks during winter months. It is expected that store owners will be responsible for clearing the crosswalks as well as clearing the sidewalks.

There was brief discussion noting that clearing the crosswalks and fixing sidewalks is helpful and perhaps necessary for the entire town, not just for people with mobility issues.

Moving November meeting date to Nov 4th (as November 11th is a holiday) was approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00.

To do: Julie discuss with town about printing 20 -50 copies of Voting poster

To do: Gary contact Elizabeth about accessibility issues – addresses and one line notes.

Gary and Elizabeth will continue to keep track of actual addresses (with one line description of accessibility issue) and will send via email to Chair.

To do: Julie (might) write memo on voting issues

To do: Julie will visit new polling site.

To do: Whitney will consider how, if at all, the ADA committee can work on the issue of invisible disabilities.

Oct 14 ADA Committee Meeting

Location: Hannah Cosman Room, town hall, passes available for parking

Agenda

10:00 Opening

Old business:

Accessible sidewalks/Elizabeth and Gary

Gallery Walk/Krystale

Letter to town about voting accessibility/Julie

Invisible disabilities and how/if the committee can work on this/Whitney

New business:

Adequate accessible parking

Other ???

General Announcements

11:00 Closing