

**ADA Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, 11/4/2016, 10:00 AM
Hanna Cosman Meeting Room
Municipal Center, 230 Main Street**

Mission Statement: "The Brattleboro ADA Advisory 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."

10:00 Opening

Attending-

Committee Members: Julie Tamler, Reuben Tamler, Gail Kennedy Haines

Public: Joel Kammerien, Micah Ranquist, Whitney Nichols, Krystale Chicoine

Representative of town: Hannah Connell

Vote on approval of minutes of Oct 14th meeting

Motion put forth by Gail to approve minutes. Seconded by Reuben.

Unanimous approval

Julie had invited Hannah to speak with us about a number of issues the committee is considering. Hannah spoke at length about each issue.

1.The town is hoping to receive a \$30,000 grant which will cover such things as adding 'stanchions' and more in safety zones at various intersections in town. Another \$50,000 is a regular line item for dealing with sidewalk issues.

2.Creating more handicapped parking for winter needs is a complex issue, involves restriping, having enough space for ADA requirements and more. Discussion on whether we could use 'loading zone' type bags over meters, clearing of sidewalks and curbs to make regular parking more accessible.

3.Addresses, compiled by Hannah, for sidewalks that have been fixed over the last three years.

Main Street from Gilbert Bridge to Dead River

Putney Road along the guard rail

Linden Street along the retaining wall

Linden Street (new crosswalk)

High Street Hill

Whipple Street

Lower Green Street

Western Avenue at Union Hill

Western Avenue at Solar Hill

South Main Street near Cotton Mill Hill

Oak Grove Avenue near South Main Street

Belmont Avenue (near 40 Belmont)

Elm Street Bridge – sidewalk repairs

Belmont near Maple (when we did paving)

Elliot Street off the bridge project

Birge Street Hill to Elliot Street Bridge

Guilford Street near the Maple Street intersection

Clark Avenue near Canal Street

Repairs on North Street and Cedar Street

4.'Putney Road changes' is a state project, not town or county.

5.Micah explained (briefly) to Hannah the needs of people who are blind or visually impaired with sidewalks, particularly the difficulties in winter. Snow is not visible in any way, as opposed to black lines or edges of sidewalks. When snow is not cleared, this is an added difficulty.

6.The town has ordinances for property owners clearing sidewalks but this is apparently only for the downtown area. The idea has been proposed before to have an ordinance that covers the entire town but this idea is apparently not supported by selectboard.

Old business:

(1) We had a brief discussion on the fact that we have not submitted any addresses that need sidewalk work. Was decided that we would leave this issue alone until someone steps forward. The process is in place, the town is receptive, this is positive.

(2) Gail will be writing a letter to the new town clerk in the coming year outlining voting issues for people with disabilities.

(3) Whitney will keep us informed about issues concerning 'invisible disabilities' and GroundWorks.

(4) Briefly reviewed the handout on accessible parking. May decide to deal with winter parking issue over the next year. Addresses that are helpful for this topic:

<http://adata.org/publication/disability-law-handbook>

Overview, questions answered, clear, concise

<https://www.ada.gov/cguide.htm>

Overview as well.

https://www.ada.gov/2010_regs.htm

The law written out (click on 'law and regulations'/top left corner)

<http://www.accessiblesociety.org/topics/ada/>

The history in readable format, facts, questions and answers

(5) Krystale will table about the ADA committee at the farmers market. The farmers market invited Julie to a meeting on Dec 8th to discuss their new location and accessibility. Julie will send the information to the committee so that others may join the meeting.

Motion to extend meeting for 10 meeting to complete agenda items (gail), seconded (reuben). All approved.

New business

Whitney encouraged people to read the national report on the ADA that came out this week (internet address below). While the nation has not been doing well with adopting the ADA, it seems that Vermont and Massachusetts have done well.

https://www.ada.gov/olmstead/olmstead_guidance_employment.pdf

Motion to adjourn (Gail), seconded (Reuben).

Adjourned