



**City of Gardner
Disability Commission
95 Pleasant Street, Rm. 14
Gardner, MA 01440
(978) 630-4001 • Fax (978) 630-4025**

**MEETING MINUTES
May 9, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Knudsen, William (Tommy) Davis, David Hackett, Anne Hurst, Aimee Ouellet and Debra Pond

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sabazius Athame

The meeting commenced at 3:00 PM at the Levi Heywood Library.

1. Review and Approval of January 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve January 16, 2018 meeting minutes as amended was made by Debra Pond, with a second by Aimee Ouellet.

Vote taken: Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0

2. Massachusetts Commission on Disabilities – monthly conference call updated.

Anne Hurst has been unable to participate in the conference calls. There is nothing new to report at this time.

3. Coffee Hour with the Mayor.

Anne Hurst reported that she spoke with a reporter from the Gardner News who would like to attend a Commission meeting to gain insight to write an informational piece on awareness. This would provide a good introduction to the Coffee Hour with the Mayor series.

The events have not been scheduled yet and the Commission members determined that it would be best to wait until the fall to schedule the first Coffee Hour.

4. Heywood Apartments – Outdoor Pool.

Debra Pond reported that permits have been pulled by Heywood for the installation of the chair lift for the outdoor pool. There have been no inspections on those permits to date. As the opening date nears (advertised as June 5, 2018), Ms. Pond will check with the Building Department to confirm whether or not the inspections have been conducted and if the installation has been successfully completed per code requirements.

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After the completion of the installation of the chair lift, Eric Knudsen inquired about conducting a walk-through of the Heywood buildings for code compliance with accessibility requirements.

5. Old Business.

a. Downtown Renovation Update

Debra Pond reported that correspondence via email was sent to the City Council President, Scott Graves, City Councilor James Johnson, Assistant Director of Community Development, Joshua Cormier and Department of Public Works Director, Dane Arnold, regarding the Commission's opinion on the use of bricks and/or brick like services for crosswalks. As determined at the February 13, 2018 meeting, the Commission opined that the brick and brick like services were not practical or user friendly for the disabled and that the skid resistant standard crosswalk surface is recommended.

No further communication has been received on this matter.

b. Commission Facebook page.

Discussion continued about the positive and negative aspects of creating a Commission Facebook page. The Commission will continue to review this matter.

c. Creating a Questionnaire.

Discussion continued about purpose and ability to obtain demographic information by and through a questionnaire. Anne Hurst suggested that by and through the Coffee Hour series, the Commission may be able to obtain the demographic information we are seeking to obtain through a questionnaire.

Debra Pond is going to inquire with Joshua Cormier, Assistant Director of Community Development, about the existence of grants that may be affiliated with the provision of accommodations for the disabled community and if there is a demographic piece built into those applications.

6. New Business.

- Anne Hurst brought up the discussion of accessibility with some of the local churches. While the church main area may be accessible, the areas where various social events are held cannot be accessed by those in wheelchairs. This also includes bathrooms in some instances. What can the Commission do about this? Commission will continue to review this subject matter.

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- Eric Knudsen reported that in Crystal Lake Park – picnic tables and benches have been set up, however the cement lip to the area where they are located cannot be passed over by a wheelchair or scooter. Debra Pond will look into this matter further.
- David Hackett inquired about whether or not the Commission will have a table at the Sidewalk Sale this year. We will wait until further information is distributed regarding this even to determine the availability of Commission members to attend a table.
- Election of Officers.

Motion by William (Tommy) Davis to nominate Eric Knudsen for Chairman, with second by Aimee Ouellet. Mr. Knudsen accepted the nomination.

Vote taken: Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0

Motion by Eric Knudsen to nominate William (Tommy) Davis for Vice Chairman, with second by David Hackett. Mr. Davis accepted the nomination.

Vote taken: Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0

Motion by William (Tommy) to nominate Debra Pond for Clerk/Secretary with second by Eric Knudsen. Ms. Pond accepted the nomination.

Vote taken: Yes 5 No 0 Abstain 1

Motion by Aimee Ouellet to nominate David Hackett for Treasurer, with second by Eric Knudsen. Mr. Hackett accepted the nomination.

Vote taken: Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0

7. Schedule Next Meeting.

The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 3:00 PM.

3:59 PM Meeting adjourned.