

**TOWN OF AMHERST
COMMITTEE on DISABILITIES MINUTES
June 13, 2022**

Present:

Erica Rodman (Chairperson); David Wantuck ("David", Vice Chairperson); Deborah Bucki (Councilmember)

Voting members: Susan Zummo; Tom Roetzer; Kathryn Barillari; Barbara Robertson

Interpreter: Emily (Deaf Access Services)

Resources: Luci Miranda

ADA Coordinators: Robert McCarthy

Excused: Quinn Bushen; Patrice Freeman; Rachel Martin;

The meeting was called to order at 19:06 due to technical difficulties.

I. Minutes

- a. April minutes approved as read
 - i. David – first
 - ii. Tom – second

II. Old Business

- a. Bike Path Signage: David
 - i. Traveled out to the path to get pictures and discovered the phones themselves are in need of updates
 - 1. Signage and current booth not clear
 - 2. Box is not well labeled or well lit
 - 3. Yellow color of the box is difficult to see, and the box is set back about 5 feet off the path posing accessibility concerns
 - 4. Tested signal with the Amherst Police Department
 - a. Phone lines in working order
 - ii. Discussion about new phone boxes
 - 1. Bob: Suggested discussing concerns with the Building Department and Amherst Police Department to see what requirements are
 - iii. Katie: Update through husband, Tom Barillari
 - 1. A CIP project budget request (Capital Improvement Project) was put in last year
 - 2. \$1M asked for to make the phones ADA compliant
 - a. POTS lines are currently from early 80s
 - b. Pick up and they automatically ring the police department
 - c. Funding has not yet been approved – pushed to 2023 agenda
 - d. New phones would be similar to UB campus blue light phones with cameras/enhancement/ADA compliance/Braille
 - e. Rich Phillips from APD will be managing
 - f. Erica: What can the Committee do here?

- g. Debbie: Circulate email through Town Board members expressing concern and desire to keep it a priority, or attend Town Board meeting and request time to speak during Public Expression at the end of the meeting
 - i. Prior to September 15th (when budget is determined)
- b. Sensory Awareness Project
 - i. Sue: Received preliminary reviews from OTs and will keep the project as a work in progress
- c. Willow Ridge/Parkview project
 - i. Erica: The project website has had accessibility features enhanced
 - 1. Remaining in touch with the project director for updates
- d. ADA Coordinator meeting
 - i. Erica: Met with Bob McCarthy, Mark Berke, and Doug Gesel with Dave Whalen on Friday, April 8th
 - ii. The Town expressed interest in hiring more people with disabilities
 - 1. David forwarded contacts from People Inc and ACCES-VR to help spread postings
 - iii. Bob: Will follow up on these resources soon
- e. Multimedia Accessibility Project
 - i. Erica: The project is finally completed and the town attorney has approved it for distribution
 - ii. Suggest posting to website, social media, and reaching out to local papers/news media
 - iii. Debbie: Suggest we put the press release together and then circulate it among the Committee for approval
 - 1. Erica: Motion to prepare press release to distribute the infographic publicly
 - 2. Sue: Second
 - 3. Vote: All in favor
 - iv. Debbie: Send an email to the Town Board announcing the approval of the infographic and request it be put on the June 27th meeting agenda as a communication
- f. Fair Housing follow-up
 - i. Erica: After Laurie Stillwell's presentation on housing in the community, a follow up discussion was had with her regarding issues with an MJ Peterson property
 - 1. Renovated apartment had several accessibility concerns
 - 2. Management was not allowing a dedicated outlet to be installed in the garage for a medically-necessary freezer
 - a. Other tenants were allowed to have freezers if they paid a fee
 - b. Fee was requested to be waived
 - c. Management did not follow up timely and demanded special paperwork be completed

- d. Management subsequently demanded additional paperwork for Erica's service dog (notarized forms, special forms faxed directly from the doctor's office, vet records for the assistance animal)
- 3. Laurie called the Director of Affordable Housing for MJ Peterson and reached out to her contacts at Related Affordable (co-owners of the property)
 - a. All matters were resolved timely
 - b. Flooring replaced, new thermostat, accessible faucet handles, carpeted stair treads
- 4. Erica reached out to Disability Rights New York and was connected with a senior advocate
- 5. Laurie and the advocate are preparing a training for landlords and tenants to attend virtually
 - a. To be held on July 13th at 4pm

III. New Business

- a. Special Announcement: Debbie
 - i. David won an award for his performance in the play, "Tribes"
 - 1. The Arties: Blossom Cohan Award - rookie actor in Buffalo
 - ii. He will receive an Amherst Town Board Proclamation at the next Town Board meeting on June 27th at 7pm
- b. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2022
 - i. August 15th
 - ii. September 12th
 - iii. October 18th (Tuesday)
 - iv. November 14th
 - 1. Erica: Motion to approve meeting dates
 - 2. Sue: Second
 - a. Vote: all in favor
 - 3. These will be Zoom meetings
 - a. Debbie: spoke with Town attorney and confirmed Zoom is reasonable for an advisory board
- c. Debbie: Luci, Barbara, and Dave may send emails regarding resolution for placement on the Town Board to request resource members be considered for voting status

IV. Next Meeting

- a. Monday, August 15th

V. Closing

- a. Meeting adjourned 20:12
 - i. Motion to adjourn
 - 1. Barbara – first
 - 2. Tom – second