

**TOWN OF AMHERST
COMMITTEE on DISABILITIES MINUTES
November 6, 2023**

Present Officers:

Erica Rodman – Chair
David Wantuck – Vice Chair
Rachel Martin – Secretary

Present Members:

Deborah (Debbie) Bucki – Town Liaison/Councilwoman
Luci Miranda – Member
Tom Roetzer – Member
Chong Cheng – Member
Barbara Robertson – Member

Interpreter:

Karen
Miriam Lerner

ADA Coordinators:

Robert McCarthy – ADA Coordinator/Director of Human Resources

Visitors:

Melissa Golpl – 2229 North French Road; Apt 2; Getzville, NY 14068
Anne Dafchik – Town of Amherst Architect
Secretary to the Council Members (Town Staff): Martha (Marty) Taggart

Excused Members and Regular Visitors:

David (Dave) Whalen – Member
Susan (Sue) Zummo – Member
Doug Gesel – ADA Coordinator/Supv. Code Enforcement Officer

Is this meeting being recorded?: No.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

I. Minutes

a. October minutes

i. Debbie – wanted to update several areas of the minutes.

1. Wanted to change the language regarding notification of the Town Attorney visit. Did not want to have the minutes use the word

“warning.” She would like this to be changed to “caught off guard.” This is per the transcripts.

2. Debbie also said she wanted to add to the October minutes that she had shared that she told the group in the May and August meetings that she would invite the Town Attorney to a meeting. Rachel looked at the unofficial minutes for May and August and noted that it was in the August minutes, however it was not in the May minutes. Debbie said she does remember telling the group this during the May meeting. She wanted this to be reflected in the October minutes that she had said this during the discussion.
 3. She also wanted the word “revoked” in regards to an item where it said Zoom privileges were removed during the meeting, as this was not reflected in the transcript.
 4. Generally, she reminded the group that it is very important to have accurate minutes. Bob McCarthy weighed in that neutral language is needed for minutes.
- ii. Luci also mentioned that there was something she wanted changed in the minutes as well.
 - iii. David Wantuck moved to hold the October minutes for next meeting (January 2024). He has asked that the transcript be provided to the group to verify the items above.
 1. David Wantuck – first
 2. Erica Rodman - second
 3. All in favor

II. Old Business

- a. Anne Dafchik – Visiting Town of Amherst Architect
 - i. Amherst Central Park Project
 - ii. Ice Ribbon – Rachel is trying to connect Anne with SABAH for expertise. Anne said there could be some delays with the ice ribbon so they may have more time to collaborate with SABAH. Because of these delays, Anne is hoping to collaborate with them Winter 2023/2024.
 - iii. Trees in the park – Plan to use conifer (non-deciduous) trees. Creates shade on the ice (less solar heat gain). She pointed out that even a few deciduous trees should not be a deterrent based on having seen a few other outdoor rinks in Canada.
 - iv. Protective Barrier around walls, and walls with handles – Anne showed a video of Maple Grove Ice Skating Loop which shows a handled barrier with interior ring of seating benches.
 1. Luci pointed out that the railing in the video is white, and maybe another color would be easier for those who have visual impairments. Erica suggested red as a high contrast color.
 - v. Fire Ring – was also shown in this video. A fire with glass barrier and seating around.

- vi. Accessibility items to rent – would like to get more information on this. They aren't at the point yet for these items but will consider them when we get to that point. Want to collaborate with SABAH also on what types of equipment would be appropriate.
- vii. Multiple exits and entrances – 1-2 entry/exit points. This keeps people from wandering on plus safety when they need to clear the ice when it's time to resurface the ice with equipment.
- viii. Emergency phone or first aid center, family restroom – previously shared floor plan for family restroom. Men's Room, Women's Room, 2 single occupancy restrooms. Changing stalls, one with large bench for changing for both children and adult size. There are drinking fountains and seating. Emergency phones are still at design development level. Do not have space for dedicated first aid room – working on finding way to add self-help first aid kit, or the skate rental behind the counter for first aid supplies. The group asked that an AED be included.
- ix. Anne shared an updated mapped plan with the group.
 - 1. She showed examples of where the driveway vs. parking lot might go. Anne commented on the need for good landscaping to separate spaces and keep people safe, and anything they can do to keep traffic slow enough to be safe, including an elevated crosswalk. Chong Cheng asked about number of accessible parking spaces. Currently there are 5 – Anne said we could ask for more if we feel there is a more appropriate number. Group feels they should increase. Anne worked through some scenarios with parking and car movement through the park with the group.
- b. Social Media Page
 - i. Will continue keeping this going during our hiatus in December.
 - ii. Please keep liking and sharing Facebook posts.
- c. Motion to postpone materials discussion for tabling events
 - i. Motion to table this item until January
 - 1. Erica Rodman – first
 - 2. Barbara Robertson – second
 - 3. All in favor
- d. Members who are expiring their terms on 12/31/23.
 - i. Luci Miranda, Barb Robertson, Tom Roetzer, and Dave Whalen are up for end of membership at the end of this year and should email Debbie of their intention to continue or to end.
 - 1. Continuing for another 2 year term: Tom Roetzer and Dave Whalen have submitted emails expressing interest to continue.
 - 2. Luci will send an email of her intent to continue.
 - a. She was unsure of term limits
 - b. Bob explained that when there is not an overabundance of members, it is okay for an existing member to continue.

3. Melissa Golpl (visitor) was invited to write an email expressing if she has interest in joining the committee as a member.
4. Chong Cheng asked if there is a limit on number of members. He also suggested trying to find someone with experience with disability law. If anyone wants to join, they can email Debbie and she can move it to the Town Board. Debbie reminded the group that Bob McCarthy is an attorney by profession. Debbie said she thinks you can have up to 15 members but would have to check to be sure. Bob said he also thought it was 15 members as a limit. Bob also offered ideas of first responders and noted that diversity of membership makes us stronger.

III. New Business

- a. Hosting for these meetings – Debbie Bucki
 - i. Debbie wanted to explain how hosting of these meetings will go currently and moving forward. Marty has been doing the hosting for these meetings to help as Debbie transitions off of this committee. Marty wants to be able to understand the content of this group.
 1. Debbie will be no longer be the liaison starting in 2024 for this group.
- b. Fair Housing Project Pilot Opportunity – Debbie
 - i. Forwarded an email from Laurie Stillwell. Laurie reached out about a pilot program targeting people who are lower income. ADU (Accessory Dwelling Units). There is a public meeting on November 30th. They are looking to include the Disabilities Committee for input and wanted a designee from this group to give input and go to meetings. This designee would be part of choosing the people who will be selected for the pilot (16 residents to start with). This designee doesn't need to be confirmed until February. Erica invited Laurie to the January meeting to get more information.
 - ii. Melissa Golpl is very interested in this topic and wants to attend the information meeting on November 30th.
- c. Last meeting of 2023 and Debbie's Last Meeting
 - i. Tonight is our last meeting of 2023, and this is also Debbie's last meeting as the committee board member. Erica said some words to thank her for her commitment to this town and this committee and the work she did to represent this committee.
 - ii. Debbie noted that it has been an honor and a privilege that she has gotten to do something like this.

IV. Next Meeting

- a. January 22nd – 6:30 pm
 - i. Made a motion for this meeting to be on this date
 1. Luci Miranda – First
 2. Erica Rodman – Second
 3. All in Favor

V. Closing

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm
 - i. Motion to adjourn
 - 1. Erica Rodman – first
 - 2. Tom Roetzer – second
 - 3. All in favor