

**TOWN OF AMHERST
COMMITTEE on DISABILITIES MINUTES
[DATE]**

Member Name	Present/ Excused	Member Name	Present/ Excused
Erica Rodman, Chair	☒	Barbara Robertson, Member	☒
David Wantuck, Vice Chair	☒	Susan Zummo, Member	☒
Rachel Martin, Secretary	☒	Dave Whalen, Member	☒
Luci Miranda, Member	Excused	Tom Roetzer, Member	☒
Chong Cheng, Member	☒	N/A	

Other Participant Names:	Present/ Excused	Address if applicable:
Town of Amherst Liaison – Angela	Excused	N/A
ADA Coordinator – Bob McCarthy	☒	N/A
ADA Coordinator – Mark Berke	Excused	N/A
Interpreter – Vanessa	☒	N/A
Interpreter – Barbara	☒	N/A
Secretary to the Council Members – Martha Taggart	☒	N/A
Endell Osuna - Guest	☒	34 Sigfried Drive; Williamsville, NY 14221

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

I. Minutes

- a. February 2024 minutes approved as read.
 - i. Tom Roetzer – first
 - ii. Sue Zummo – second
 - iii. All in favor

II. Housekeeping Items – Erica

- a. Angela will not be joining us tonight.
- b. Dave Whalen is traveling and may join late – Joined at 6:45 pm
- c. Waiting for confirmation from Angela for Committee appointments
- d. Accessibility of meetings
 - i. Please let Erica know if you need any accommodation to make these virtual meetings more accessible for you.
- e. Annual Report for 2023 was completed and accepted. Committee is requesting to present this at an upcoming Town Board meeting.

III. Old Business

a. Handouts – Tabling materials

i. Rachel has a box of current materials.

1. Rachel can provide a report of what we already have and quantities.

2. Erica has recommendations for things to add:

a. Updated Mission Statement/About the Committee Flyer – something that is eye-catching (What we are, what we do, how to join, how to reach us)

i. Chong Cheng recommended a link to be included to our Facebook page and webpage.

ii. Erica said we can also do a QR Code

b. Sue has prepared some book reviews that could be added.

c. Multi-media accessibility information that was worked on in 2023.

d. Accessible parking tag forms

e. Recommended a portable filing cabinet as a better system for housing the items.

3. Dave Whalen

a. Said we should decide what to take out as well as what to add.

b. Laws: Service Animals, accessibility, ADA

c. Emergency Preparedness

d. Etiquette Content

e. Also noted to be conscious of environmental impact of printed materials

4. Rachel Martin

a. Will provide a list of what we currently have with quantities for the April meeting.

b. We have a lot of materials, and the table becomes overwhelming – it's important to put out relevant materials at each event and not necessarily every item we have.

IV. New Business

a. Facebook message from residence - Erica

- i. Erica reported that Lori Werbow sent a direct message to the Facebook page.
- ii. Her son uses a power wheelchair to get around the community and has concerns regarding two stop signs in Getzville on Getzville Road
 - 1. Woodbury near Greenbriar – hidden by trees.
 - 2. Meadow Stream at the bottom of the hill and people don't stop for it
- iii. She wanted to know if there was anything that could be done to make these areas safer.
- iv. Bob McCarthy suggested we get Mark Berke involved. He suggested this go to the Traffic Safety Board. He asked Erica to forward the message to him so he could pass it to the right people.
- v. Similarly, Chong noted that he has requested a "Child with Autism" sign for his daughter who has disabilities to be installed in his neighborhood and said it has been over a year. Bob said he could look into who the right people are for this topic and asked Chong to send the details to him via email. Bob also suggested that maybe this Committee could help with the placement of those signs and be a resource for the town.

b. Zoom Link – Erica

- i. The Zoom Link for these meetings is now consistent for the whole year and the same link can be used for all meetings in 2024. Thank you, Marty, for taking care of this for us!

c. Town Website – Erica

- i. Dave Whalen noted that the Town of Hamburg webpage for their Committee on Disabilities has accessibility features that our Committee page does not have and has an option for submitting concerns to the Committee from the public.
- ii. Erica will email everyone the link for both the Amherst and Hamburg sites to compare. David Wantuck suggested that we provide what we like and what we don't like and give suggestions to IT so it can be done in the way we want it. We will discuss this in more detail at the April meeting.

d. Accessibility of the Town Board Meetings – Erica

- i. The recording of the most recent Town Board meeting does not seem to have a transcript option, so people who need captions/transcripts are not able to access the meeting content.
- ii. Marty said she can look into this and make sure these options are turned on in recording the meetings.
- iii. Motion to Email Dave Willer in IT to get clarification on the option to include captions and/or transcripts to make the virtual Town Board Meetings accessible.
 - 1. David Wantuck – First
 - 2. Dave Whalen – Second
 - 3. All in favor
- iv. Other options discussed:

1. Having a professional person to create a transcript at the meeting or an ASL interpreter.
- v. Erica recommended that the Committee should attend/view the Town Board meetings when they can to stay informed and see if any issues are relevant to this Committee.

e. Sidewalk Repair Responsibility

- i. There is construction at the corner of Cambridge and Allenhurst with the sidewalks.
 1. Bob is not sure of this particular work but said it sounds like a drainage repair potentially, though he is not certain without seeing the actual site and information.
 2. The home across from this site has a 3-4" displacement in the sidewalk in front of their home.
- ii. Wanted to get information about responsibility of sidewalk repairs.
 1. Bob said orange paint painted on a sidewalk means the Town is aware of the issue, has flagged it, and is reaching out to the homeowner to work to correct it. If the home does not make the repair, the town will go in and do it and put the cost on their tax assessment.
 2. Rachel noted that at times, homeowners are beholden to repair people to schedule the work. Erica also noted that cost can be prohibitive for some people. Rachel noted that people do not want anyone to get hurt, but while they are waiting for work to be done if they cannot get this scheduled quickly, are there other things homeowners can do to warn people about the unsafe nature of the sidewalk for people walking. David asked if the Town is able to keep track of the sidewalks that need to be done so they could potentially help with actually doing the work and then charging the resident for the work.
 3. Bob also noted that some of the heaving of the sidewalks was caused by trees planted in the right of way. He recommended we have Mark Berke come and talk to this issue as this is more his expertise.

f. Guests and Priorities

- i. Accessibility walkthrough of emergency shelter with Jim Zymanek
 1. Jim is retiring this year. He has a successor (Brandon Peters), and Bob suggested we invite him to the May meeting to introduce him to the Committee.
 2. Motion to invite Brandon Peters to the May Committee Meeting
 - a. Erica – First
 - b. David W – Second
 - c. All in favor
- ii. Emergency Management
- iii. Amherst Police Department
- iv. Amherst Central Park – Anne Dafchik

V. Meeting dates for 2024 – All meetings start at 6:30 pm and are held on Zoom.

- i. Monday, April 15
- ii. Monday, May 6
- iii. Monday, June 3
- iv. No Meeting in July
- v. Monday, August 12
- vi. Monday, September 9
- vii. Monday, October 7
- viii. Monday, November 4
- ix. No meeting in December

VI. Closing

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm
 - i. Motion to adjourn
 - 1. Erica – first
 - 2. Barbara – second
 - 3. All in favor