

TOWN OF AMHERST
COMMITTEE on DISABILITIES MINUTES
April 15, 2024

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

Other Participant Name	Present/ Excused	Address if applicable
Town of Amherst Liaison – Angela Marinucci	Present	N/A
ADA Coordinator – Bob McCarthy	Excused	N/A
ADA Coordinator – Doug Gesel	Excused	N/A
Interpreter – Ruann	Present	N/A
Interpreter – Kayleigh	Present	N/A
Secretary to the Council Members – Martha Taggart	Present	N/A

Guests:

Lynn Mason – Landscape Architect, Parkitects
 Ben Frasier – President of Parkitects
 Chris Schregel – Engineering Department
 Erik Riffel – Parkitects
 Anne Dafchik – Town Architect
 Mary-Diana Pouli – Youth and Rec Department

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

I. Minutes

- a. March 2024 minutes reviewed.
- b. March 2024 minutes approved as read
 - i. Erica – first
 - ii. Tom – second
 - iii. All in favor

II. Guest Speakers

- a. Chris Schregel – Engineering Department/Traffic Safety Coordinator

- i. Impaired Child Warning Signs
 - 1. Residents are able to request signs for some circumstances in some areas (deaf/blind/autistic child).
 - 2. Chris shared a history of signage in Amherst.
 - 3. Erica shared a request to change the word “impaired” to “child/children with disabilities”. The committee agreed on this verbiage and Chris will make the change.
- ii. Sidewalk and ADA Ramps – 2024
 - 1. Chris lost his connection to the meeting for this topic and will return in our next meeting to cover this topic.
- iii. Getzville Stop Signs
 - 1. Chris lost his connection to the meeting for this topic and will return in our next meeting to cover this topic.
- b. Mary Diana Pouli, Anne Dafchik, and representatives from Parkitects
 - i. Amherst Central Park Project
 - ii. Ben Frasier shared 3D renderings of the project including the overall playground, the specific structures, and how they worked to make the playground as accessible as possible.
 - iii. Question about stairs that go from playground area to the marketplace area. There are accessible routes to the marketplace area, but you would have to walk around. The accessible pathways are near the entries to the park.
 - iv. Reminded the group that signs with ASL were requested, as well as braille. The group said this can be done and will continue to discuss.
 - v. Dave W. shared a guide to playground accessibility via email.

III. Old Business

- a. Town Board Meetings – Accessibility
 - i. The local news has shared that there is a potential lawsuit against the town regarding audio accessibility of board meetings.
 - ii. Erica and David spoke with Dave Willer of the IT Department and confirmed that Closed Captioning is enabled on the YouTube feed.
 - iii. Board is evaluating the sound system setup for the meeting room. They are working on accessibility with IT department.
 - 1. Jamie noted anecdotally that the board meetings are difficult to hear. She suggested that possibly facing out to the audience could help the audience hear people who are speaking. Angela explained the structure of the meetings and how they are supposed to be philosophically. They are continuing to look into the sound system to improve the acoustics in the room.
 - 2. Angela shared that the Town has secured FM systems that will be made available to residents who may need them for board meetings.
 - 3. Luci pointed out the accessibility of the podiums and ability to stand, lean, and to approach the podium should also be evaluated to make sure it’s accessible.

- 4. Dave W. shared that they have evaluated the space and it was ADA compliant at the time of evaluation.
 - iv. There are potential concerns with the sound system. Not much information as of this time. If there are updates, Erica will share.
 - v. Erica reminded everyone that committee member presence on social media could potentially help people know that we are here.
- b. Mission Statement Handout
 - i. Members were asked to review the current draft and submit feedback via email to Erica.

IV. New Business

- a. Introducing Angela Marinucci as our new Town liaison for this committee.
- b. New Members: Marty assisted with a resolution to reappoint expired term members and appoint our new member: Jamie Mobberly.

V. Next Meeting

- a. May 6, 2024
 - i. Rachel will try to attend and asked for a back-up minutes person in case she is not able to attend due to another appointment. Erica will send an email for a possible back up closer to the date.

VI. Closing

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm
 - i. Motion to adjourn
 - 1. Erica – first
 - 2. Luci – second
 - 3. All in favor