

**TOWN OF AMHERST
COMMITTEE on DISABILITIES MINUTES
May 6, 2024**

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

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

Guests:

Chris Schregel, Town of Amherst Engineer Department
Lucy Drabczyk, 151 Box Elder Lane

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

I. Minutes

- a. April minutes reviewed.
- b. April minutes approved as read.
 - i. Erica – first
 - ii. Rachel – second
 - iii. All in favor

II. Accessibility Reminder

- a. Please use the hand button on Zoom and wait to be called on to speak.
- b. Please share your name to identify yourself before speaking each time.
- c. If you are sharing your screen, please read what is on your screen for those who are not able to visually experience what is on the screen.

III. Old Business

- a. Town Board Meeting accessibility
 - i. New signage is now posted outside of Board room advertising FM system availability for hearing disabilities.
 - ii. There are no updates to the supposed lawsuit that was rumored to have been filed regarding the sound system. Bob confirmed that no lawsuit was filed, rather a complaint was filed with the Division of Human Rights. All items in the complaint are being looked into and are still being addressed. Some upgrades have been made to the hearing aid devices that are available. Currently, there are no tactical or mechanical issues with the sound systems. There are some ways to make speakers be heard better such as which direction people are facing while speaking, an A/C system that sometimes kicks on, and crowd noise.
 - iii. Erica requested that we receive the verbiage for the signs that are posted so that we can also share them on social media from this committee. Bob said he would send it.
 - iv. Dave Whalen suggested keeping this committee involved so we can help with disability-related issues such as this.
 - v. Erica mentioned the request for closed captioning optimization, and Bob said he could coordinate to have Dave Willer from IT to come to a future meeting.
- b. Town Website
 - i. A link was sent out of Town of Amherst and Town of Hamburg websites.
 - ii. Several committee members noted the Amherst website does not feel as inviting in comparison with the Hamburg site.
 - iii. Discussed inviting David Willer from IT to a meeting to review ideas for changes.
- c. Materials list of print materials
 - i. Rachel sent list to Erica of what we currently have.
 - ii. Rachel will drop the box off to Dave Whalen so he can review what we have and what needs to be added.
- d. Mission Statement Page Update
 - i. Erica sent to committee members to review.
 - ii. Some edits were suggested and made during the meeting.
 - iii. Motion to make discussed edits, add the Town Seal and distribute the flyer at tabling events.
 - 1. Erica – First
 - 2. Tom – Second
 - 3. All in Favor

IV. New Business

- a. Visitor: Chris Schregel
 - i. At the last meeting, Chris was kicked off the Zoom meeting and offered to come back to this meeting to finish his presentation.
 - ii. Chris shared pictures of some spaces that have missing sidewalks that the town is prioritizing.

- iii. Erica asked if there were updates to a situation brought to the committee by a resident concerning stop signs. They are looking at options for the best and safest way to address this issue (location: Getzville Road) with the Traffic Safety Board.
 - iv. Chris answered several questions from the committee members about specific areas with needs.
 - v. Erica asked about Augusta and Sheridan curb near NFTA bus stop. A resident had noted the curb seemed elevated from the street and it was difficult for a walker to get over the lip of the curb. Chris made a note to check into it.
 - vi. Jamie asked about sidewalks that are in disrepair due to tree roots and other reasons. Chris explained this falls to the homeowner to repair. The town will mark sidewalks that need to be replaced. The town does not offer the completion of the repairs itself as it was not able to keep up with this, so homeowners need to coordinate the repair/replacement.
- b. Board Meeting – Annual Report
 - i. Was presented at the Board meeting by Erica and David Wantuck
 - 1. Noted we want to continue to talk about Emergency Management, acknowledged our continued work with our ADA Coordinators (specifically Bob McCarthy who has been an ally), exploring VRI capabilities within the Town facilities/buildings/offices.
- c. Tabling Event – Health Fair
 - 1. Suggested that we use June to coordinate materials for tabling events.
- d. Future Guests and Projects for 2024
 - i. Suggested Town Website accessibility
 - ii. Suggested Guests this year for this meeting: Dave Willer (IT), Chief of Police, Highway Superintendent, and Brandon Peters (Emergency Management)
 - 1. Suggested that Erica send preliminary emails prior to the June meeting and then discuss this again at the June meeting. Bob and Marty both offered to help with these connections.

V. Next Meeting

- a. June 3, 2024, 6:30 pm, Location: Zoom

VI. Closing

- a. Motion to adjourn.
 - 1. Dave Whalen – first
 - 2. Barbara– second
 - 3. All in favor
- b. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm