

Town of Amherst Committee on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025 6:36 PM - 8:15 PM

I. Introduction:

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

II. Roll Call: Present:

- Erica Rodman (Chair)
- Jeffrey Zeplowitz
- Barbara Robertson
- Chong Cheng
- Lucy Miranda
- Jamie Mobberly
- Endell Osuna
- Tom Roetzer
- Jamie Sheldon

Town Representatives:

- Marty (Town of Amherst)
- Bob McCarthy (ADA Coordinator)
- Bill Prenevau (Buildings)
- Zachary Garlick (Deputy Director of Human Resources)

Absent:

- Lindsay Cassick
- Dave Whalen

Guests:

- Christina Chapman (Resident)
- Amanda (Resident)

III. Approval of January Minutes:
Motion to approve January 2025 minutes: Erica
Passed unanimously

IV. Old Business:

A. Officer Vacancies

1. Vice Chair: Jeffrey Zeplovitz volunteered.
Motion to approve: Erica
Passed unanimously
2. Secretary: Barbara Robertson volunteered.
Motion to approve: Erica
Passed unanimously

B. Amherst Police Department Training

Erica R reported on the ongoing training for Amherst police officers, covering service animal response and interactions with deaf residents. The training has been well-received by officers and the police leadership.

C. Guest Speakers for 2025

1. Laurie Stillwell (Community Development Director) confirmed - April 14th meeting.
2. Dave Willer (IT) tentatively agreed to attend the March 3rd meeting.

D. Amherst Bike Path Emergency Phones

No significant updates. The committee will continue to follow up on this issue.

E. Town Disability Awareness Training

Bob McCarthy provided an update on the plans for online training for town employees, focusing on those who interact with the public most frequently.

F. Smallwood Accessible Parking Spot

Jamie Sheldon raised concerns about the lack of accessible parking near the main entrance. The committee discussed potential solutions and agreed to investigate further.

G. Annual Report Presentation

The committee discussed scheduling the presentation of the annual report to the town board. Tentative dates: February 24th or March 10th.

V. New Business:

A. Community Youth Center at 1350 Eggert Road

Jeffrey Zeplovitz brought up concerns about the accessibility of this proposed center. The committee agreed to investigate further.

B. Winter Sidewalk Clearance

Bill Prenevau reported on increased complaints about unclear sidewalks and discussed challenges with continuous snowfall and salt shortages.

C. In-Person Meeting for 2025

Motion to hold the September 8th meeting in-person at Town Hall: Erica
Passed unanimously

D. Amherst Family Center Incident

Christina Chapman (resident) shared her experience with her son being unwelcome at the center due to his special needs. The committee and Bob McCarthy agreed to investigate the situation.

VI. Motions Passed:

1. Approval of January Minutes
2. Election of Jeffrey Zeplowitz as Vice Chair
3. Election of Barbara Robertson as Secretary
4. September 8th meeting to be held in-person at Town Hall

VII. Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Robertson, Secretary