

**Town of Amherst Committee on Disabilities**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 3, 2025 6:47 PM - 8:28 PM**

I. Introduction: The meeting was called to order at 6:47 PM by Chairperson Erica R.

II. Roll Call:

Committee Members Present:

- Erica Rodman (Chair)
- Jeffery Zeplowitz (Vice Chair)
- Barbara Robertson (Secretary)
- Luci Miranda
- Chong Cheng
- David V. Whalen
- Lindsay Cassick
- Tom Roetzer
- Jamie Sheldon
- Jamie Mobberly
- Endell Osuna
- Frances Knab

Town Representatives Present:

- Angela Marinucci (Town Board Liaison)
- Bill Prenevau (Building Department)
- Robert McCarthy (ADA Coordinator)
- Zachary Garlick (Deputy Director of Human Resources)
- Dave Willer (IT Department)
- Steven Floss (Highway Department)

Guests:

- Joseph J. Borgisi
- Spike Mertes
- Andrea Morgante
- Geri Dicosmo

III. Approval of February Minutes:

Motion to approve February 2025 minutes passed unanimously.

IV. Guest Speaker: Dave Willer (IT Department)  
Website Updates

- Discussed website updates, including:
  - Replacing outdated 2021 pictures and archiving them in a historical folder.
  - Creating a Committee-specific email address through the town for better resident communication.
  - Setting up a distribution list to ensure coordinated responses and maintenance of current members.
  - Organizing website content into structured sections: "**Forms**," "**Resources**," and "**Past Events**."
  - Using consistent imagery with alt text for accessibility.
  - Providing a website mockup for Committee review.
  - **Accessible Parking Permit Application Update**
  - concerns about the website link directing users to a complex state DMV form without clear local instructions.
  - The Committee agreed to provide user-friendly directions explaining that residents can bring the form to the **Town Clerk or Senior Center** for faster processing.

V. Old Business:

1. **Smallwood Accessibility Parking Sign** (presented by Steve Floss)
  - a. The town advised that they can put the parking sign anywhere in their parking lot, but the Town roads cannot have a permanent sign
  - b. School offered to use a temporary sign
  - c. Jamie Sheldon will attend PTA meeting and revisit the issue
2. **Community Youth Center - 1350 Eggert Road** (update from Angela Marinucci)
  - a. New building to be constructed
  - b. Committee to request involvement in reviewing plans
  - c. Liaison to keep Committee informed of planning board meetings
3. **Bike Path Emergency Phones** (discussed by Erica R and Angela)
  - a. Still a goal; Preparing for 2025 budget cycle
  - b. To be mentioned in Annual Report presentation
4. **The Family Room resident concern** (update from Erica R, Zach Garlick and Robert McCarthy)
  - a. Spoke with Mary-Diana Pouli, the Director of Youth and Recreation for the Town of Amherst
  - b. Determined that the staff at The Family Room had handled the matter appropriately and made attempts to accommodate the resident
5. **Town Disability Awareness Training** (update from Robert McCarthy)
  - a. In process of identifying funding
  - b. Aiming for initial critical staff training in 2024
  - c. Committee to propose as expanded annual program for 2025 budget
6. **Winter Sidewalk Clearance** (update from Bill Prenevau)
  - a. Clarified Town vs. resident responsibilities
  - b. Bike path not cleared in winter, considered closed except for skiing/snowshoeing
7. **Annual Report Presentation** (presented by Erica R)

- a. Scheduled for March 10th town board meeting
  - b. Will highlight 2024 accomplishments and 2025 goals
- VI. New Business
  - 8. **Guest Speaker for April Meeting** (discussed by Erica R)
    - a. Laurie Stillwell, Community Development Director, Confirmed to present
    - b. Topics: ADU project, fair housing, new housing developments
  - 9. **Sound System Concerns** (introduced by residents Joseph J. Borgisi and Spike Mertes)
    - a. Difficulty hearing Town board meetings, both in-person and online
    - b. Committee to investigate further and consider solutions

VII. Motions Passed:

- 1. Motion to approve February minutes as read
  - o Moved by Erica R
  - o Seconded by Jeffery Zeplowitz
  - o Passed unanimously
- 2. Motion to add FM system issues to next month's agenda
  - o Moved by Erica R
  - o Seconded by Jeffery Zeplowitz
  - o Passed unanimously
- 3. Motion to adjourn the meeting
  - o Moved by Erica R
  - o Seconded by Luci Miranda
  - o Passed unanimously

VIII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

**Next Meeting Date: April 14, 2025**

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Robertson, Secretary