



City of Woburn, Massachusetts

Handicapped and Disabled Citizens Commission

10 Common Street

Woburn, MA 01801

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Meeting Minutes from July 23, 2015 Meeting

In attendance: Tim Donovan, Johanna Hill, Veronica Andrews and guest John Harney (former HP commissioner)

Mr. Harney, now retired, would like to come back and once again participate in the Handicap Commission. We have to check what his status is, and does his participation require re-appointment, swearing in, etc. etc. etc.

Many questions arose regarding our request, as yet unanswered, regarding re-painting the HP Parking places in the square. With the expected re paving of Main Street, in September, now our question is, when the re paving is done, and the repainting of crosswalks etc. Will the Handicap parking spaces be painted as well?

Almost two years ago, under the direction of Jan Cox of HR, a HP Parking space was approved by the HP Commission and the Traffic Commission. It was to be at Church St and Main. As well as the upper parking lot of Walnut Street, parallel to the elevator entrance. They have never been attended to. We request this parking place to receive attention and be installed at the time of re paving, repainting Main Street. If the cost of the expensive blue paint figures into this request, we have funds available to offer to pay for the paint.

A letter was sent to the Mayor last fall, asking for specific attention to the coming winter snow storms 2014. The holistic concern that property owners along Main Street and throughout the city for that matter, be reminded that an ordinance on the books for years, requires that sidewalks in front of their establishments, especially leading to their entrances be cleared within so many hours of a snow fall. Last winter was a horrific example, sidewalks were glare ice from packed snow and shop owners had no place to put the snow they were trying to remove. When asked, managers, clerks, etc., held the building owners responsible and most never replied. These people were hired to work in the store or restaurant, NOT TO SHOVEL SNOW and they told us so.

The letter never was acknowledged by the Mayor or the DPW and we would ask that it be dusted off and reviewed for the up-coming winter, long before these concerns need to be addressed in the dead of winter. It was suggested that we invite the DPW Superintendent to our next meeting and see if he can explain the difficulty he faces with this conundrum.

We intend to ask the Building Inspector what kind of enforcement if any is there for a HP Parking space that is constantly illegally used in the parking area adjacent to the library.

Our opinion was solicited regarding the two trees in front of City Hall. Is it passable for a wheel chair safely where a pole is on the right and the area of mulch and dirt, allowing for the tree to get water, allow for a restricted passage of wheel chair. We have inquired of Conservation, Parks, offices within the building and our members have passed the trees in both directions. Yes, it's restricted, but not dangerously impossible. A grate, a paver, a patio block placed at the street edge, under the mulch would go far satisfying safety concerns, but nobody supported the tree's being removed.

We have entered into preliminary conversations with Police and Fire Depts. On the concerns of a paraplegic, wheel chair resident of Woburn Housing it's been brought to our attention. Evacuation plans, emergency procedure for these housing complexes has not been addressed or updated, made public and the residents have no plan in place, no information as to how they would get out of these buildings in emergencies. We hope to support in the future public information, resources and the procedures in place that all should know about.

Members expressed our meeting time posing a challenge, in the evening's on Thursdays was becoming more and more difficult to attend. We all agreed that a meeting at 3:00 in the afternoon would be more convenient for all. We will make arrangements for our September meeting to be Sept 17, 2015 at 3:00 and will post this change on our web page.

Respectfully Submitted,
Veronica Andrews, Chairperson