Provincetown Disability Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
March 09, 2011

Members Present: Michelle DeMarco, Vernon Porter, Randa Krise, Linda Loren

Absent Members: Barbara Grasso, Jo-Ann DiOrio

Guests: Rex McKinsey – Provincetown harbormaster
Gregg J. Corbo – Town Counsel

Initial discussion was about appearance before selectmen to discuss warrant and the need for further clarification of the amount of funds that are being requested. Another meeting with Sharon Lynn will be scheduled.

Harbormaster, Rex McKinsey, is meeting with commission to ask for a letter of support for his request for a modification of a variance that was granted by the Architectural Access Board. There is a violation citing the town due to the unavailability of the mechanical ramp at the ferry dock.

Presented was the Variance request; an engineering plan of the ramp and transportation float; site plan of the south end of the pier; pictures of the broken controls for the lift; letter of support from Bay State Cruises; copy of the current violation notice and a copy of the original variance decision of the AAB in 2000.

Due to the great differences at tides, the slope of existing ramp is not in compliance at tide extremes. The mechanical lift was purchased in order for the ramp at the ferry pier to be compliant. Due to weather conditions, the lift has been chronically broken and now cannot be repaired. A replacement unit will cost the town $125,000.

Currently, there is only one ramp to enter and leave the ferry. The second ramp is not functional. They would like to remove the mechanical lift and replace it with a conventional ramp. Having two ramps will allow those with disabilities to use one ramp and other passengers to use the other ramp. Staff will assist those who need help navigating the ramp. This will accommodate many more individuals than the current ramp which only accommodates those in wheelchairs and only one at a time. There is also concern with the mechanical ramp breaking down while someone is on it.

Members of the commission raised issues about accessibility and assistance which were answered. After some discussion, the present members of the commission

voted and unanimously 4-0 approved the harbormaster's plan and will send a letter of support. (Copy of Letter attached)

Rex McKinsey also stated that the staff in his office is available to help all boaters. We discussed putting signs on the pier that will inform individuals that they can call the harbormaster's office for assistance getting on and off private and public boats.

Next Meeting will be March 23, 2011 with Sharon Lynn