

Provincetown Disability Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
March 5, 2013
Meeting in the Caucus Hall at Town Hall

Meeting Started at: 11AM

Members Present: Michelle DeMarco, Vernon Porter, JoAnn Diorio, Nancy Swanson,
Herb Hintze, Michelle Foley & Linda Loren

Members Absent: None

Guests: Jeffrey Dougan – Asst. Dir for Community Services - MA Office on Disability
Domenic Rosati & Patricia Benatti – Provincetown Parking Department

Welcome and Open Comments:

Introduction and Welcome to our guests

Public Statements: None

Approval of Minutes: February 19, 2013 with no changes

Old Business:

Parking Department: Parking fines for Handicap parking violations for 2012 was \$11,160.00. Main violations are parking in the striped area of Handicap parking and Parking in Handicap spaces without placard. Out of state violators never pay their fine. Issue of what to do about individuals who forget to put their placard in place and want their ticket dismissed. Issue presented to Jeff Dougan – Jeff stated that the MA RMV requires that drivers display their placard. He stated that the parking department did not need to give a pass on the tickets but he did like the parking department's one time forgiveness of no placard tickets. Domenic emphasized that a visual inspection of the front area of all cars in violation of the placard violation is done before the ticket is written. Disability Commission will continue to meet with Parking Department to address issues of Handicap Parking Violations.

New Business:

Issues presented to Jeff Dougan:

1- New Handicap Restroom on the 1st floor of Town Hall. This is a follow-up to a complaint presented to the Commission. Jeff inspected the area and noted that there is not enough space provided on the wide side of the bathroom. This validated the issue of the complainant who was unable to maneuver her wheelchair in the bathroom. All other aspects were within guidelines. Issue to be presented to appropriate town department.

2- Commercial Street repaving and the continued use of brick pavers as well as the issue of sufficient curve cuts. Jeff suggested that Chris Becker from his office be contacted for a physical review of the project. He can be reached at 617-727-7440 ext. 27307. Jeff suggested that after date is selected that the Town be asked for a representative to participate. He suggested that 2 to 3 members of the Commission participate in the survey. Michelle as the Chair of the Commission will participate as well as JoAnn and Swany. Jeff emphasized that an early survey could save the town money if deficiencies are found before the contractors leave. There is a particular issue for the Commission due to no additional curve cuts as was promised. These cuts were asked for in areas where the sidewalk is narrow and frequently obstructed by delivery trucks or vendor displays. Jeff did state that curve cuts for driveways are not to be counted as cuts for disability issues.

3-Town Employee Training – Michelle asked Jeff to assist with this project and he readily agreed. He will send an agenda for the Training Program and will assist with assigning a trainer from his office.

4-Jeff gave the copies of the current MA Disability Rights Laws to all members as well as his contact information.

5- Jeff was asked about our function when dealing with complaints regarding disability issues. He stated the Commission is an advisory Board only. He suggested that we not be in an adversarial situation. He stated that we should present complaint to particular Town department or individual and if no acceptable solution we should submit the complaint to CORD. All minutes regarding complaints need to be clear regarding issue and referring complaint to CORD. CORD will present complaint to appropriate State Agency.

6- Issue of building variances was discussed with Jeff. We stated that it was difficult for the Commission address issues when we are not aware of them until after the variance is issued. Per Jeff, all variances are only be given by the Boston Access Board. No variances can be given on the local level. Standard procedure is that all variance requests are sent to the Boston Access Board, Town Building Inspector, COD and to the Commission. The Boston Access Board will send notification to the Commission. No response by the Commission is passive approval to the Assess Board. We have not been notified of these requests and Jeff will assist in finding out why. It is important that the Commission be able to review all requests.

7- Discussed with Jeff our update to the Provincetown Accessibility Guide. He stated that the Barnstable COD had just finished a similar guide. He stated that he would send contact information as a help to completion of our project and to use the Barnstable project as a guide.

Closing Statements:

Thank you to Jeff Dougan for his continued guidance to the Commission.

Next Meeting Scheduled for: April 16, 2013 @ 11AM

Meeting Adjourned at: 12:20PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by.
Linda Loren