

Salem Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2020

Meeting held via zoom platform

Commissioners present:

Debra Lobsitz, Chair
Kerry Neenan
Maureen McKinnon
David Moisan

Commissioners absent:

Darren Black
Rebecca Christie

Also present:

Lisa Cammarata, ADA Coordinator
Megan Ricciardi, City Council Liaison
Alan Hanscom, SATv
Jeff Cohen, No Place For Hate
Kate Zuraw, Applicant for Commissioner

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:35PM. Each commissioner introduced him or herself.

Old Business:

a. **ADA Transition Plan Presentation by IHCD and PSHE Committee Meeting update/MOD grant:**

Lisa Cammarata (Cammarata) stated this item will be on the agenda every month to keep this matter on everyone's mind. Cammarata said the City has not heard from MOD about the Grant submission. Debra Lobsitz (Lobsitz) said MOD will not be awarding the grants until December. Lobsitz reported she contacted the City's Capital Improvements Director Jenna Ide (Ide) about the progress of the IHCD recommendations. She said Ide told her she is working on it and it should be ready soon. Ide's report tracks IHCD-recommended projects as well as all other City projects. There were no updates regarding the PHSE Committee meeting.

b. **Fall Election working group update/final comments:**

Rebecca Christie was not present, and this matter can be reviewed in December.

c. **Subcommittee reports:**

Project funding:

Cammarata reported the subcommittee has not met, and she will set up a meeting soon.

ADA updates and transition plan:

Maureen McKinnon (McKinnon) reported they met on November 10, 2020 and set goals for the subcommittee. McKinnon said the goal (in part...) "is to have a better flow of communication from project heads... and to update the Commission on ADA elements with respect to City and IHCD projects." McKinnon recognized the need for the Commission to have more information on projects when they are happening.

Lobsitz reported she contacted the architect for the 129 Lafayette Street and 20 Harbor St. variance request, and she has not heard from him. McKinnon asked about a prior request for a variance in a church for an elevator. Cammarata mentioned the Greek Orthodox church; McKinnon said she thought it was a different one. Cammarata said she thought it was the old St. John the Baptist church and she would do research on it.

Lobsitz said she had not heard back from Seger Architects, and she contacted the City's Building Commissioner, Tom St. Pierre with her concerns about the request for variance. He said that he would attend the meeting if the architect was going to be present.

The subcommittee is meeting again on December 22, 2020.

Social Media:

Cammarata reported that John Young designated her as the Commission's Face Book page administrator, and she noted it is a responsibility that is available to anyone who would like to take it over.

Pedestrian Safety:

David Moisan (Moisan) brought up the crossing signals at the Summer/North/Essex Street, and that they are not acceptable. He said the ones at the MBTA station are not good, either. Moisan would like people to contact the MBTA and express concern. Lobsitz suggested people could go to the MBTA website and submit concerns.

SCOD representative to the No Place for Hate:

Kerry Neenan (Neenan) reported she attended there last meeting, and there was nothing specifically related to the SCOD. She said she enjoys attending their meetings, and she encouraged us to listen to their meetings.

d. Variance request from John Seger (Seger Architects) for 129 Lafayette St. and 20 Harbor Street

Lobsitz reported on this matter earlier in the meeting, and she reiterated she invited him to attend the meeting and did not hear back from him. Lobsitz said she would try again.

New Business:

None.

Announcements/General discussion and ideas for future meetings:

Neenan updated the group about her work in bringing the ALEC training to the Salem Police Department. Now that Halloween is over, she will be contacting Acting Chief Dennis King to start the process. Lobsitz said to keep in touch with the Project Funding Subcommittee in case there are costs associated with this training.

Lobsitz reported the MOD summit was postponed due to technical difficulties. New date will be announced.

Neenan reported that the Forest River Pool project is starting soon.

There being no further business for the Commission to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25PM.

LBC