



BARNSTABLE DISABILITY COMMISSION

Mailing address - 230 South Street
Hyannis, MA 02601



Merrill Blum, Chairperson
Sheila Mulcahy, Vice Chairperson
William Cole, ADA
Tammy Cunningham, Sec. & Tres.
Paul Hebert, Council Liaison

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Paula Breagy
Denis Briand
Sabrina Kane
Paul Logan
Linda McKinney
Sarah Nicholson

Barnstable Disability Commission
Minutes
March 21, 2018
Hyannis Youth & Community Center
141 Bassett Lane Hyannis, MA 02601

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Merrill Blum, Chair; Sheila Mulcahy, Vice Chair; Paul Hebert, Town Council Liaison; Linda McKinney; Sabrina Kane, Sarah Nicholson, Paul Logan and Tammy Cunningham.

Members absent – Paula Breagy and Denis Briand.

Guests: Brian Florence, Building Commissioner; Michael Perry, Highway Division Supervisor; and Mona Solmonte, Parking Manager & Transportation Coordinator.

Approval of the minutes of February 21, 2018 – Sheila Mulcahy made a motion to approve as amended, Paul Logan seconded. Unanimous.

Merrill Blum stated the BDC is discussing parking fines, signage, and additional language. Sarah Nicholson stated she did some research and found some references throughout different sections such as zoning. Brian Florence responded there would be references to accessibility within the building code. Police will only issue handicapped parking tickets, if contacted.

Michael Perry, Discussion on Handicap Parking Signs and Heights – Mike Perry stated Highway division follows MUTCD which states the sign should be placed 7 feet from the bottom of the ground. Typically, it is 5 half feet for a typical sign not visible from the street. The Town needs to be careful nobody is injured due to the placement of a sign on the post. Main Street parking will work, we will also brighten the spaces, white and blue with the blue square. Parking lot and on street parking agree in a 7 foot height.

Beach parking and signs – Paul Logan mentioned at Kalmus beach it was repaved and new signs added. According to AAB should be between 5 and 8 feet for sign placement. Mike said they chose 7 feet because a low car would be unable to see the sign. He added there are two different codes for on and off street parking. Michael Perry stated DPW has changed its thinking concerning on street parking. He added that it also makes a difference in the sign location and in a walkway. Mr. Perry stated Highway will work with the Commission on this. It will need to be run by Dan Santos, DPW Director. All beaches should be brought up to code which is 9 foot spaces.

Paul Logan brought up the fact that the new CVS Pharmacy's signs are out of compliance. They are 7 feet. He added that when they go for an occupancy permit these things should be reviewed, as they make a difference. He commented that the spaces are too narrow by at least four inches.

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Brian Florence, Building Commissioner – Brian Florence stated he appreciates the work of the Commission and departments should be working together on these very important issues. He stated the Building Department is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the community. We do need to be realistic about restrictions. We can issue fees, however, collective the fines are challenging because they are often reduced or reversed in District Court. It is very difficult. You will get more relief with the AAB since they will issue fines and be able to collect. The negative is the funds will not go to the general fund and it will take longer.

Handicap Parking was then discussed. Mike Perry added that relative to the signs they do make a plastic wrapping that can be added to metal signs with a reflective strip. He will investigate if they make blue wrapping. The BDC asked if they track the number of citations. Councilor Hebert also asked about the methods used to track. Mona Solmonte responded they do take pictures, so when the party comes in to argue the sign they have those available.

The BDC asked if it would be possible to get the number of valid handicap plates and placards to do a mailing. Mona Solmonte stated the RMV would not provide that information. Councilor Hebert suggested doing an educational stuffer in the excise bills being issued. She added they are doing a handicap parking presentation to at the Senior Center on April 4th. She added they could do a presentation to the Town Council.

Mr. Florence stated the staff does need to be more cognizant of accessibility. He does remind them about, but also need to balance with the needs of the small businesses. We do not want to put ourselves at risk. Mr. Florence stated if enforceable send the information to building and we will go out, and if we cannot go out we will let you know why. He added they do have an enforcement program in the software they use.

Discussion to Town Council on Parking Fines and additional language – Paul Logan stated in order to enforce the rules the bottom of the sign has to be legal. There should be no leniency. The purpose should be to educate and discourage offenders. Mona Solmonte stated there is no leniency with expired placards. They offer a one time exemption with not displaying the placard. Paul Logan stated there has been a decrease in parking fines. Mona Solmonte responded that they are decreasing the number of citations being given and not as many staff out in the community doing enforcement.

Mona Solmonte stated there are a lot of people that it is a burden to pay the bill. Paul Logan stated it is also with Park Happy being more lenient. Ms. Solmonte stated that is true, we have reduced the number of complaints and number of hours on the street. Councilor Hebert asked about the distinction between the regular season and seasonal issuing citations. Paul Logan stated he has noticed a remarkable difference in the receipts taken in. He stated it impacts a lot of different things and enables behavior.

Ms. Solmonte stated 50% percent of the first time offenders are dismissed. Elizabeth Hartsgrove handles the appeals. Steven Spillane stated it could show a pervasive reputation that enforcement is not taken seriously. A discussion was then held on the fee structures. It was determined that the fine should be a flat fee structure and not a range.

Ms. Solmonte stated we always take the first offense as an opportunity to educate. They cannot track warnings, but can track offenses. There was a lengthy discussion on a fine versus a warning. Sabrina Kane asked how long does the history stay on record for violations. Ms. Solmonte responded two years.

It was recommended that a meeting be scheduled with the Town to discuss. A Sub Committee was formed to spearhead this topic. Members include Paul Logan, Chair; Sarah Nicholson; Sabrina Kane; Linda McKinney; and Sheila Mulcahy.

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Arden Cadrin, Housing Coordinator, Planning and Development – Ms. Cadrin explained they do need more housing for people with disabilities. They will work to retrofit existing properties. Unfortunately, there is very little new development going on.

Ms. Cadrin stated they do see where the developer will make units accessible ready by making door widths wider and blocks in the wall. HAC is building 8 new units which will be accessible or accessible ready. There will also be some on Ridgewood. A few developments located in Independence Drive. One is an over 55 community. The minimum requirements are discussed with the developer when the application is reviewed.

Paula Breagy sits on the Housing Advisory Board. She mentioned the BDC would like to be involved in increasing the number of accessibility units in the community. Ms. Cadrin said there is certainly in a need in the community, but they do not track the numbers. Ideally, people would like to stay in their homes, unfortunately, there is no place for one to apply for funding to modify an existing home. The VNA can make an assessment. The suggestion of CDBG create a program, however, it is questionable where the funding of the grants would come from. Sheila Mulcahy stated she would contact the Senior Center to discuss if they would partner with the BDC on the matter of the age friendly process.

Steve Spillane mentioned he does a lot of coaching with clients of CORD. He said there is a huge need for housing, approximately 75% clients have housing related issues. CORD does intake sheets and he was going to check into whether the data could be derived from the info they take.

Financial Report – Current balance is \$85,086.42.

Paul Logan stated he will be emailing Mark Ells to set up a time to meet to talk about parking philosophy and strategy.

Linda McKinney asked for scholarship contact information to be sent to her to begin the process.

Merrill Blum reported he and Sheila met with the Sandwich Disability Commission. They are still in the developmental stages. They are a committee of 6 and 4 are employees.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy L. Cunningham

**The mission of the Barnstable Disability Commission
is to advise and guide the Town of Barnstable and the general public regarding
issues of accessibility in accordance with the American's With Disabilities Act (ADA)**

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