



**City of New Bedford Commission for Citizens with Disabilities**

**Minutes  
Commission for Citizens with Disabilities  
April 25, 2019**

**Members Present**

Jaunna Adesso  
Melissa Branco  
Susan Bewsher  
Pam Cole  
George Smith

**Others in Attendance**

BG Shanklin, Architect  
Cynthia Wallquist, Exec. Director

**Members Excused**

Linda Carreiro  
Dennis DeMarinis  
Marsha Fernandes

**Members Absent**

Herb Eddleston

George Smith, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order @ 6:35 PM.

**Approval of Minutes**

Pam Cole moved to approve the February minutes, seconded by Susan Bewsher. The motion carried.

**Old Business**

- **Polling Places.** BG Shanklin reported that there is still no movement to replace the Moose Lodge and Congdon School as polling places in their respective wards. George Smith suggested that the Elections Commissioner be invited to the next meeting and provide an update on problem locations as well as possible alternatives if Bedford Gardens closes.
- **West Beach Bath House.** Jaunna Adesso expressed her disappointment that funding hasn't been proposed to make the West Beach bathrooms accessible. There was discussion about the other accessibility issues at that location and how difficult it is for someone to enjoy the floating wheelchair due to those obstacles.

**Chairperson's Report**

The Chair sent regrets that he could not attend due to recuperation from surgery.

## Executive Director's Report

Cynthia Wallquist reported that:

- The Department is still working with the group of wheelchair-users to provide fiscal agent support. They are planning an event in June and requested support from the Commission in an amount of \$400. Pam Cole moved to approve their request; Susan Bewsher seconded. Motion carried.
- Cynthia reported that the Bridge did not use all the funds that were set aside so she asked the members to approve using those monies to compensate Larry Bigos (special needs exercise) and BG Shank for the shortfall he incurred due to the extra Transition Plan work. Pam Cole moved to approve that request; Susan Bewsher seconded; motion carried.

Pam Cole moved to accept the Executive Director's report; seconded by George Smith. Motion carried.

## Architect's Report

BG Shanklin:

- discussed renovations planned at the Boys & Girls Club and how they could benefit voter access;
- followed up with DFFM staff regarding the Hazelwood bathrooms improvements and the budget that needs to be spent by 6/30/ There are issues with the chimney that need resolution;
- updated the Commission on the Transition Plan status and stated that four buildings still need to be re-surveyed, including Buttonwood Senior Center. **It will be ready for a vote to accept and forward to the State at the May meeting;**
- will follow up on Jaunna's concerns and provide her with the information needed on what needs to be done at West Beach per what's in the Transition Plan draft;
- reported that plans for the First Baptist Church theater has ADA-related issues, including the need to add 2 handicapped parking spaces. His concerns have been shared with staff at MAAB;
- reiterated that polling sites must have signage for accessible entrance sites that are visible from the street;
- Any building such as 800 Purchase St. or schools that provide a Zone of Refuge, should have buzzers.

Mr. Shanklin added that the Transition Plan was initially estimate to be a 400 hour job; however, 1200+ hours have gone into this to date. He added that his reviews are based on the (pending) 2018 code that requires sites to be 70% accessible if renovation work meets or exceeds 30% of the building's assessed value.

Melissa Branco moved to accept the Architect's Report, seconded by Jaunna Adesso. The motion carried.

## **New Business**

- On behalf of the Visually Impaired support group, Susan Bewsher asked about audible signals at intersections where sidewalk improvements/curb cuts have been made (especially along Union Street and Kempton & County). George Smith asked that she bring a letter from the group to the next Commission meeting that outlines their concerns so the Commission will follow up with the Departments involved.

## **Announcements**

- Jaunna Adesso announced that she will be stepping down June 1 due to her schedule and her son Owen's needs;
- The next meeting will be May 16;
- Anyone interested in serving as an officer should let the chair know by the May meeting; officers are elected at the June Annual Meeting.

## **Adjourn**

Pam Cole moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM; Susan Bewsher seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jaunna Adesso".

Jaunna Adesso  
Clerk