



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission on Disability

MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2013

Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Candace Havens
Director
Planning & Development

Senior Planner Alice Walkup
Community Development

CD Manager
Anne Marie Belrose

Members

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Jane Brown
Lucie Chansky
Jini Fairley
Rosemary Larking
John Lojek
Barbara Lischinsky

Advisor
Sargeant Jay Babcock
Newton Police Department

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Members Present:

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Jane Brown
Barbara Lischinsky
John Lojek
Lucie Chansky
Rosemary Larking
Jini Fairley

Advisor:

Sergeant Jay Babcock

Staff Present:

Nicole Tocci, Inspectional Services
Alice Walkup, Senior Planner, Community Development
Anne Marie Belrose, CD Manager

Guests:

Lisa Ming
Barbara Darnell
Sandra Lingley
Alicia Bowman

Meeting:

Rob Caruso called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Minutes:

J. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2012 meeting and R. Caruso seconded the motion.

2. CDBG Report:

A. Walkup presented the CDBG Report.

J. Fairley made a comment about her observations of the painted crosswalk lines fading, one in particular that has recently been painted is already fading.

R. Caruso suggested that maybe a vote should be taken on re-painting and painting the horizontal lines with-in a crosswalk throughout the city.

A. Belrose explained that there is a new paint that will be used that will last a lot longer but is more expensive.

J. Lojek asked A. Walkup up to check to see if there is a law that says when crosswalk lines are fading they have to be re-painted and to find out how much epoxy paint is before they vote on spending the money on the re-painting.

Sgt. Babcock says an intersection with lights will just have the 2 lines for a crosswalk and when there is no light present they will paint the horizontal lines within the crosswalk so they are more visible. This is the practice of the DPW. R. Caruso says that Pearl & Jackson does have the horizontal lines and a light at that intersection. Sgt. Babcock says there should be a unified way crosswalks should be painted and also when they should be re-painted.

3. Annual Consolidated plan FY14:

A. Belrose presented the proposal for the FY14 Annual Action Plan Architectural Access projects. She explained what the approach had been for the FY13 budget, which utilized reprogrammed administrative funds for the Architectural Access projects. She said that this year, since the City had not yet received guidance from HUD about the entitlement amount anticipated, the current approach is to presume level funding. She described the projects planned for FY14, as described in the FY11-15 Consolidated Plan, suggesting that removing the “Projects to be Determined” line item would help bring the projects close to the level of anticipated funding. She also explained that reducing the amount for the curb cut improvements by \$6,800, to \$54,850, would allow the total FY14 Architectural Access budget to match that of FY13. The other two projects proposed to receive funding are the Education Center – Accessible Building Directory Sign (\$4,050) and the Newton Centre Playground Pathway Phase V (\$45,000). She also described proposed changes to the Citizen

Participation Plan, and the Commission members identified several small edits, which A. Walkup agreed to make.

The Commission voted to support both the proposed FY14 Architectural Access projects and funding levels, as well as the updates to the Citizen Participation Plan as corrected.

5. Mission Statement Approval, 8J, 22G:

Commission had a brief discussion about the Mission Statement.

J. Brown made a motion to accept the Mission Statement as read and J. Lojek seconded the motion.

6. Newton South update:

R. Caruso started the discussion by asking if Newton South has the correct number of HP spaces that they are supposed to have. J. Lojek is still looking into the total count of spaces on the lot.

L. Chansky says that a few of the signs in front of the HP spaces are too low. J. Lojek says there is a height requirement for the signs. He is looking into finding the original site plan for the site.

A. Walkup says there is available money for refunding for the door at Newton South but she needs to speak with the Executive Office to make sure that this is where the money is most needed. A. Belrose said she spoke with Public Buildings and they had said that they could do this project in the spring. J. Lojek wanted to make it clear that the COD should not be the ones providing the money for any type of school improvements/projects that it is a school funding issue, a school is a public building.

7. Newton Schools security plan vs. accessibility:

J. Brown asked if security will interfere with accessibility at Cabot, Countryside etc.. L. Chansky says the Pierce School is not accessible, the accessible route would be in the back of the school and that door is locked. The Bigelow School has the required HP spaces but where they are located the closet door is locked.

Sgt. Babcock informed the Commission that there is a Steering Committee that has been invoked and R. Caruso & G. Plante need to let them know that they want to be involved and join the Committee.

J. Lojek reiterates that the State/Federal laws do not supersede the AAB Laws, they can't just be ignored. The Commission needs to make sure they are heard about accessibility. Sgt. Babcock says this is the time to have a voice and be heard not after the fact.

8. HP violations #, money amount and where has it gone since 8/12:

Sgt. Babcock starts the discussion by giving the Commission an update on the amount of tickets that have been issued, HP violations & blocked curb cuts, there have been 201 tickets, and 97 have been paid so far.

Before amended ticket amount		After amended ticket amount
	HP Violations	
37 tickets @ \$100		60 tickets @ \$200
	Curb Cut violations	
13 tickets @ \$100		15 tickets @ \$200

Total amount in a 6 month period for HP violations is \$30,300; curb cut total is \$8,400.

Sgt. Babcock put together a plan mimicking a similar operation that Waltham is using to obtain tickets from violators, this plan will be in action for a couple weekends as a trial period, 5 officers will work over time so the cost for the over time will have to be factored into equation, 20hrs is used for ticketing HP violators.

Alicia Bowman, Pedestrian Coordinator for the city for the last year, introduced herself to the Commission. She spoke of Newton Centre, the bump outs & shortened crosswalks. L. Chansky inquired about the lighting or lack of. Retrofitting heads & lighting crosswalks are a key concern that Alicia said are still being discussed.

Lisa Ming a guest at the meeting is a resident in Auburndale, Charles St. specifically, she told the Commission of her reasons for coming to the meeting and of her concerns about the traffic flow on her street. There are *residences that* have frequent meetings in the neighborhood, children walking to and from the Williams School, the

speeding is a problem, it's a college area as well. Lisa was looking for support from the Commission in requesting speed bumps.

Alicia says there are raised crosswalks in that area.

Sgt. Babcock told her to contact her Alderman and tell them to bring traffic calming in-front of the Traffic Council and in an e-mail contact the Police Department and ask for their help in the meantime.

Alicia also suggested contacting the Williams School and asking for a representative of Safe Routs to School.

9. New Business:

Alicia Bowman is looking for committee engagement, low cost improvements; pedestrian safety which was originally the Beautification Committee, Newtonville was the first village to undergo improvements. She plans on going from village to village improving the city from a pedestrian's point of view. Next on her agenda is Nonantum, hoping to encourage the COD to help in any way they can. The curb cuts are bad, cracked sidewalks, trees missing, lip & gaps are uneven. She has reached out to Bill Pailey, Traffic Engineer for the City; he has been notified of the issues and will be able to help with some of them.

Sgt. Babcock thought it was a good idea that the COD write to the Mayor about accessibility in the villages and let him know that they would like to work closely with the Pedestrian Coordinator. R. Caruso and G. Plante reminded Sgt. Babcock that they already have recurring meetings with the Mayor about crosswalks, sidewalks etc.

R. Caruso discussed how dangerous it is when there is a drop, crack etc. in a sidewalk, whether you're a child, have a disability or are an able body, the situation is dangerous and needs to be corrected immediately. One of the bigger problems throughout city is the leaving behind of the square when a tree is removed.

L. Chansky brings up that there are a lot of issues that the COD is weeding through, lights, APS signals etc. Alicia responded by saying she is looking more at the low cost improvements. She believes that they can work together and prioritize short medium & long term solutions.

A. Belrose reiterated that there is a budget and projects already in place until 2015.

R. Caruso called meeting adjourned