

**Northampton Disability Commission**  
***Gene Page, Chair***  
***City Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Vice-Chair***  
***Northampton Senior Center 67 Conz St., Northampton, MA 01060***  
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**Minutes of the Nov 20th, 2018 Disability Commission Meeting**

**Members Present:** Gene Page, (Chair), Chris Palames, City Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Vice-Chair, Judith Kimberly, Hannah Coyle, Emma Cornwell, Linda Kakos

**Members Excused:** Letitia Ward, James Winston

**Guests:** Phil Sullivan

**Recorder:** ADA Coordinator Marie Westburg

Gene Page, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm and announced the meeting was being recorded and videotaped.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Phil Sullivan commented there is continued abuse of handicap placards in the city. Suggested that police enforce proper use and issue tickets to those not using them correctly. He also reported that there continue to be issues with vehicles parking on the street and sidewalk near a gas station on King Street as well as improper clearing of sidewalks and park spots. He suggested that a letter be sent to the chief of police to inform her of this ongoing issue. block access

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Members of the Commission introduced themselves and Linda Kakos was welcomed as a new member, note was made that her name was not properly represented on the agenda and this was corrected (Linda, not Mary).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of Oct 16th, 2018 approved

The draft prepared by Chris Palames's of Northampton's ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Update Plan were distributed.

**NEW BUSINESS :** No new business to discuss

**OLD BUSINESS :** Marianne LaBarge stated that she attended a public forum held by the city on the use of walking trails for children and families for a walking school bus program. There were people of every age group attending and it was impossible for people to hear one another during this very important discussion. The lack of assistive listening equipment was stressed as imperative for representation of all voices in these important meetings. The issue of assistive listening devices for city use at meetings as well as the need to address the need for more adequate staffing capacity for ADA Coordinator's responsibilities, including secretarial needs at this meeting was also discussed. It was discussed that no more time should pass, that recommendations should be made to the city now. The need to move forward with presentation of the draft of recommendations from this committee to the Mayor through the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan was brought forth for vote. Marianne LaBarge made the motion,

Judy Kimberly seconded that the draft should be presented along with a letter from Gene Page, Chair of the ADA Commission, to the Mayor as soon as possible. Marie Westburg, ADA Coordinator reported that she will cover the secretarial needs until she can recruit a volunteer or tax work off participant to fill this monthly need.

At 5:43 pm Marianne LaBarge made a motion that we adjourn the meeting, Gene Page seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec 18th, 2018 at 5 pm.

**Video recording of this meeting can be found at:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeGt7XGpd7g>**