

April 13, 2023

Hello Member of the City Council,

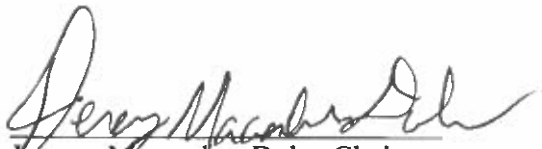
The Northampton Disability Commission has voted unanimously in approval of the edits to the “§ 312-117 Schedule XXVI - On- and Off-Street Accessible Parking Spaces” presented by Keith Benoit, the City’s ADA Coordinator, at our April 11th meeting. We believe the edits are essential for bringing the City’s accessible parking spaces into compliance with the ADA, providing clarity regarding where the accessible spaces are in the City, and making visual audits of the spaces easier in the future.

Keith Benoit explained during his presentation to the Disability Commission that the City is currently not in compliance with the ADA by not providing enough accessible parking spaces for on-street parking. This was only obtained by visually inspecting every accessible parking space in the City against the § 312-117 Schedule XXVI. Several of the accessible parking spaces have disappeared and others have “moved”, because the reference point to them have also moved. The language describing the spaces is also inconsistent throughout the schedule.

The proposed edits call for making consistent use of language and reference points i.e. “1st space from Pleasant Street”, as opposed to “at a point 49 feet from Pleasant Street”. This make visually inspecting accessible parking spaces much easier and not requiring special equipment. Additionally, these edits will be essential for determining what we actually have for accessible parking spaces in the City, ahead of the Main Street redesign.

We encourage the City Council to consider these edits and we are happy to work with you on its implementation.

Thank you


Jeremy Macomber-Dubs, Chair


Emma Cornwell, Vice-Chair