

Planning & Sustainability • City of Northampton

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Keith Benoit, Community Development Planner • KBenoit@NorthamptonMA.gov • 413-587-1288

Disability Commission Minutes Tuesday May 10, 2022 4:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Members

Jeremy Macomber-Dubs, Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Councilor Marianne LaBarge <input type="checkbox"/>	Keith Benoit, Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emma Cornwell, Vice Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Kathy Murri <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Linda Kakos <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clare Marilyn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rodney Kunath <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Morton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

1. Jeremy Macomber-Dubs, Chair, gave notice that the meeting was being recorded.
2. Ben Kalish said that there is a meeting for the Forbes Library Disability Board on Wednesday the 18th at 3:00 PM online.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86838984776?pwd=b0NhdWJKR3hMREN4MEs0eFlsR3JNdz09> It is a time for people to talk about accessibility at the library, all are welcome. You can view the calendar event here:
<https://forbeslibrary.libcal.com/event/8967641?hs=a>
3. Amy said that she is in support of the shared use trails and fixing sidewalks.
4. Disability Commission approved the April 12th 2022 meeting minutes by a roll call vote with a motion by Linda Kakos and seconded by Jeremy Macomber-Dubs and passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
5. Keith Benoit gave an update on the Forbes Library Accessibility Grant. That the support letter for their work was sent to Forbes Library to include in their application and that they should not hear back till about mid-July if they were awarded and work would not start till October. Updating the Disability Commission / Accessibility page is okay, but Planning & Sustainability cannot offer a lot of staff time to do it. The Disability Commission would have to create the content and send it to Keith Benoit to upload. Keith Benoit also updated the Disability Commission regarding their input for the accessible trails at Pine Grove, that it was forwarded to the Office of Planning & Sustainability and that they will move forward with the wider paths. Updates



on the project will be given as the project progresses.

6. Discussion regarding our invitation to speak with Chris Palmas regarding
7. Discussion regarding hosting Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra at the next Disability Commission meeting. Jeremy Macomber-Dubs asked if people had any questions or comments to share with the Mayor. Linda Kakos said that there are too many obstructions on State Street to Masonic Street where the restaurants are. Keith Benoit said that this should be a cordial conversation with the Mayor and that we are all working toward similar goals. Emma Cornwell said that she would like to bring up the letter regarding the state of the sidewalks. Michael Morton asked if the Mayor will give a speech or we will just talk with her. Kathy Murri asked if we should discuss snow removal with the Mayor.
8. Marilyn Clare asked if the streets, like near King Street, do we know the details of the projects. Details can be found on DPW page here: <https://www.northamptonma.gov/1268/Current-Projects>
9. Items Not Anticipated
10. For the Next Meeting:
 - Discussion with Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra
 - Possible follow up with Chris Palmas
 - Details on King Street and Hawley Street projects
 - Update on the South Street Accessible Parking Request
11. Meeting was adjourned with motion by Michael Morton and seconded by Marilyn Clare by roll call vote at 4:28 PM