

Planning & Sustainability • City of Northampton

resilience | regeneration | design | conservation | placemaking | mobility | accessibility | community development | historic | zoning | GIS | agriculture

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

Disability Commission Minutes Tuesday June 13, 2023 4:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Members

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

1. Jeremy Macomber-Dubs, Chair, gave notice that the meeting was being recorded and then took roll call.
2. Public comments were asked, no public comments were given.
3. The May 9, 2023 minutes were approved unanimously by a roll call vote, motioned by Councilor Marianne LaBarge seconded by Jeremy Macomber-Dubs, with Emma Cornwell abstaining.
4. Thomas RC Hartman gave a presentation for the Disability Commission to review the Talbot House at Smith College request for variance from MAAB. *firm has had a long history of working with Smith College and this is part of a larger project to reduce the college reliance on fossil fuels. There is a lot of mechanical work that needs to be done. The Prospect Street entrance to the Talbot House is being asked for a variance from the MAAB. C and H Architects are modifying the front entrance for Smith College, but ask for a variance, so that they do not have to make the front entrance fully accessible, as there is a common area entrance door that is accessible, which has a lift to the second floor. The Historic Commission said that to make the front entrance accessible would take away from historical character. Chris Palames said that the 1 in 12 ramp slope is the minimum. Thomas is asking



for a letter of support for relieve from the MHC.

5. Amy Sugihara asked how many people use the steps and of those who use a mobility device? How many people who live in the building use a mobility device? Have they thought of using an outside? Councilor LaBarge in concerned about people using crutches. Amy Sugihara said that if she was driving to the building, she would drive to the accessible parking spaces.
6. The Disability Commission voted in favor of writing a letter of support for a variance for the Talbot House motioned by Jeremy Macomber-Dubs and seconded by Emma Cornwell
7. The Disability Commission voted in favor or supporting the Unpaved Trails for All regarding the New Massachusetts Trail Access Bill. The bill would expand access to accessible trails and complete assessment of the trails. Motioned by Amy Sugihara and seconded by Jeremy Macomber-Dubs. Amy Sugihara shared a draft of letter of support.
8. The Disability Commission reviewed and approved the flyer/handout(s) for the Crip Camp movie.
9. The Distribution of the flyer was discussed. The subcommittee will print off and distribute the flyers. The Commission discussed the final logistics for Crip Camp movie viewing. Chris Palames mentioned that Bill Neuman show is good along with other local advocates. Could we invite others such as Monty from the radio station.
10. Chair gave notice that August meeting will not happen due to vacations on City Staff and others.
11. For Next Meeting: Crip Camp movie on July 11
12. Meeting was adjourned unanimously with a motion by Marianne Labarge and seconded by Jeremy Macomber-Dubs at 5:16PM.