



## City of New Bedford Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

### Minutes

**Commission for Citizens with Disabilities Meeting  
Buttonwood Senior Center  
October 20, 2022  
6:00 PM**

#### **Present**

Esperanza Alejandro-Berube  
Pam Cole  
Den DeMarinis, Jr.  
Audra DePina  
Linda Haskins  
John Lobo

#### **Excused**

Kim Bettencourt  
Marsha Fernandes  
George Smith

#### **Others in Attendance**

Laurie Alfonso, Traffic Commission  
Manny DeBrito, Elections  
BG Shanklin, Architect  
Cynthia Wallquist, Exec. Director

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Dennis DeMarinis called the meeting called to order at 6:08 PM.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the September minutes was made by Esperanza Alejandro-Berube; seconded by Pam Cole. Motion passed 6-0.

#### **Guests**

- **Traffic.** Laurie Alfonso stated that a Traffic Study (\$5000) is needed before any changes can be made to the Sixth Street & William Street intersection and/or the crosswalk to the accessible City Hall door. Route 195 exit will eventually be reconfigured, so there might be an opportunity then.

There was discussion about the work needed at Kilburn Mill as there is no curb cut on the west side; it's mis-marked and the distance is too long per code. Handicapped parking spaces are also needed in front of the Dough Company.

BG will meet with Laurie and Stephanie (DPI) before the next meeting to discuss South End spaces and signage.

Per BG Shanklin, signage is needed at the Elm Street Garage office door.

- **Elections.** Manny DeBrito spoke about the need for a separate ballot in the Election for the Southcoast Rail question.

Members expressed their concern about the lack of signage at polling locations and that by State law, only new locations require “Vote Here” signs. Dennis and Cynthia had gone to Care One on Primary Day where they reported no signage or markings for the entrance door to use to vote. Neither reported seeing a portable ramp that BG said was needed. Pam requested appropriate signage to guide voters with disabilities. She also suggested that the Commission send a letter to the delegation to try and get the signage requirements changed to mirror what other states require. BG stated that public buildings used as polling locations should be marked with signage for ramp locations. He also said that signage was lacking at the Moose Lodge.

Manny provided his cell number so Commission members can call him directly if they encounter any issues on Election Day.

### **Old Business**

- Jen Vieira (DFFM) stated via e-mail that the concerns raised by BG and the Commission at the September meeting were shared with their architect to incorporate into the re-design.
- Justin Chicca (DPI) said in an e-mail that the concerns raised at the September meeting had been addressed. Both Audra and Pam said that wasn’t the case, so Cynthia asked that they email her with the specifics that she will then forward to DPI.
- **Roosevelt Apartments Fire/Elevator.** The elevator is still not working.
- **Team George Updates.** The item was tabled because George and Kim were not in attendance.
- **Wheelchair Flags.** John Lobo reported no activity in October, but two sites will be scheduled in November (11/15 & 11/17).

### **Executive Director’s Report**

- **Clear Path Program.** The enrollment period ends October 31, with 20 slots restricted to the priority categories. Audra asked about eligibility for visually impaired homeowners. Cynthia said she should call Pauline ASAP to do the intake and paperwork.

### **Architect’s Report**

- **Elm Street Garage.** There are design issues regarding the public “lobby” that BG will address with Laurie.

- **Kilburn Mill.** BG still needs to meet with Danny regarding the issues pending since May.
- **Lund's Corner Congregational Church.** On hold until he hears back from the church.
- **New Bedford Credit Union downtown.** BG will send Dennis and Cynthia his report on the front door issue, so it can be sent to the bank.
- **Transition Plan/ Meeting with DFFM.** BG has had no luck trying to meet with DFFM since January. He will go out again to revisit all the sites in order to update the Plan and ultimately leave it to the State to request missing information relative to the timetable to address deficiencies at each building. He did say that Wilks Library will be renovated and include handicapped parking spaces.
- **Transition Plan/Schools.** BG is waiting for Al Oliveira, but will be going back out by himself to get this moving.
- **Hillman Street.** BG reported that a sign was put up directing patrons to the ramp entrance.

Motion to accept Architect's report was made by John Lobo; seconded by Linda.  
Motion passed 6-0.

### **New Business**

### **Other Business**

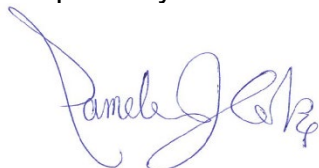
- Pam distributed the VAX Connect flyer for the clinics the CCWD team is working on.

### **Announcements**

- Next Meeting: November 17 @ Buttonwood.

**Motion to Adjourn** at 7:35 was made by Pam; seconded by John. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pamela J. Cole  
Acting Clerk