

Northbridge Disability Commission Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024

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Members Present- Bruce Frieswick, Dan O'Neill, and Jill Patnode-Krause

Meeting Called to Order at 6:32PM

NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
LINDA E. ZYWIEN

1. Minutes from the January 22, 2024 meeting were improved.
2. Sutton St. sidewalks- nothing new
3. Senior center- nothing new
4. Fire station- the fire station sent a request for a variance for 3 employee areas which are not compliant with the 2010 ADA standards. These sections are the employee kitchen, laundry area, and locker rooms. The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board met on February 6th and decided it was not in their jurisdiction to decide what to about the fire station. It falls under the Dept of Justice. Bruce called the DoJ in Washington DC and spoke with "Malise" . She confirmed that with any new government facility built after 2010, the entire building must meet compliance. Every part of the building is considered "common area".
 - a. The public area falls under CMR 521 and the 2010 ADA rules
 - b. The employee areas only fall under the 2010 ADA rules
 - c. Bruce will identify the 2010 ADA rules and specific ways the fire station is deficient. Our commission will vote on it and give it to the town and architectural manager.
5. Linwood Playground-Jeff doesn't have an update yet.
6. Route 122 Crosswalk- Bruce drafted the letter to send to the Massachusetts Dept of Transportation. Dan and Jill reviewed this and agreed it could be sent to Mass DOT.
7. Lake Terrace- Jill reported that apartments 25-28 do no have ramp access. They have to step down off the platform to get to the sidewalk. We need Jeff Dougan to make recommendations that we submit to the Northbridge Housing Authority.
8. Cotton Mill apartments also have an issue with a lack of access to the community room. There are 4 stairs to the community room.
9. Other member concerns. There was a survey done a few years ago by a company which outlined any ADA issues that are present in town owned municipal buildings and properties. Next meeting we will chose which project to address. We will need to figure out the cost and find contractors who can do the work so we can submit a grant to MOD in the summer.
10. Next meeting is March 11, 2024
11. Meeting adjourned at 7:31PM

Approved 3-11-2024

Jill Patnode-Krause