

Billerica Commission on Disability

Town Hall
365 Boston Road
Room #116
Billerica, Massachusetts 01821
(978)215-2000

Acting Town Manager
Clancy Main

Chairman
Arthur Torrey

Monthly Board Meeting
Thursday September 19, 2024

6:00 PM

VIA Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87188773476?pwd=bkRlaFFXWTdreTl1d3JueVlySFNvZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 8877 3476

Passcode: 433264

Phone 1-929-205-6099

AGENDA

Agenda items in bold, notes in regular text

1. Attendance:

- a. Maria Martin, Donna Gorzela, Jason Gale, Andrew Jennings, Dina Fayeau, ART absent due to conflicting event.
- b. Meeting start delayed due to not having a quorum initially and then not being able to record the meeting (Dina logged on Clancy's account to be the host). Started about 6:17.

2. Announcements:

- a. Per message from Clancy, last month's meeting shutoff was because someone double booked the Zoom... Town has three accounts, so shouldn't happen – but.....

3. Open mike.

- a. No issues raised.

4. Need input for upcoming contracts and 5 year plan.

- a. Discussion of need to have COA bus services include disability as well as elderly Andrew J will keep us updated on when we need to provide input.
Continuing item, Email Andrew w/ any specific items for public record.
 - No updates today. Andrew may have an update on Thursday. Will email Arthur if there is an update.

RECEIVED
2024 OCT 10 P 4:
TOWN CLERK
BILLERICA

- Dina mentioned LRTA discontinued contract. Does not affect buses for Billerica, just who does the planning. Requests for funding still has to go through Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG).
- Still a question of what is needed. Opinions need to come from somewhere. Disabled community is an important voice. Do a needs assessment? Yes, at least an informal one. Request to town manager through select board. Dina to make request tomorrow (20Sep24).

5. Kohlrausch park – meeting update – Continuing Item – any update?

- a. Some repairs and pavilion updates were completed. Proposal/drawing still in the works. Timing not known.

6. Parking @ Senior Center – striping? (Mark L.) Not done, Per message from Mark L, Not required? Per Jason, library also very faded. Dina has requested Clancy put both on To Do list.

- a. No update on Dina's request

7. Gazebo status? - anything needed from us? (Mark L.)

- a. (SB has Vote to make gazebo mods handled by facilities, plan has been approved – lower legs and add ramp – priority.) - Continuing item, update?
- b. Dina made request for review at Monday's (23Sep24) select board meeting

8. Trash Barrel blocking path @ Faulkner Mills dam overlook -per message from Mark L. we have promise it will be moved, status? (Mark L.)

- a. Barrel was moved.

9. Question for Marc L. from Mark T. about Kennedy Meadows Assisted living – parking compliance (number of spaces needed / present) ? Jason will look at also (Mark L.) Discussed @ last 2 meetings, update? (Mark L. will talk about enhanced enforcement, and talk to Management Co. about adding more spaces.) Continuing item – update?

- a. No update from Mark L.

10. O'Conner's Plaza and Town Center businesses – parking, including out front (Mark L.)

- a. Safety imp plan for added spaces – implementation status?
 - i. No update
- b. Any update about back lot?
 - Mangia mangia had a fire – closed? - No other update. Plan has not moved forward yet with respect to additional spaces.

11. Boston Rd. construction passability for pedestrians? Update?

Will last until summer 2026 – listen to Town Mgr update on Facebook?

ART – note, I've driven route recently, it looks like things are patched up to be passable for walkers to at least as good as it was before project started, possibly better in some places. Probably better for wheelers, but not great.

- 12. Question about the new pedestrian light buttons on the lights at the intersection of Boston Rd. and Treble Cove. - Mark L. eval?**
- a. No update from Mark.
- 13. I had a contact from Bethany Slack, "Community Services Coordinator" w/ the Billerica Board of Health, she said she used to work w/ Steve, and wants to connect w/ us to see how we can help each other.**
- a. No update
- 14. There was a recent survey on MA Commissions run by the Danvers Accessibility Commission, results have been released (sent out separately) any thoughts? Lauren – reaching out to other disability comms to talk about what they did and how it worked. Continuing item**
- a. No update from Lauren
- 15. Possible table @ Yankee Doodle, sensory space @ library – Lauren & Maria will work on. Status?**
- a. From emails, seems possible, but does conflict w/ book sale. 2nd floor quieter. (any conference room we could use?)
 - b. Darlene says we can do table for free? (Mary Howard is contact)
 - c. Possible new brochure
 - d. Doing support group for people w/ disability in town?
 - e. **PLANNING FOR 2025?**
 - i. Agreed
- 16. Sandra J BATV show. - Planning?**
- a. Questions for / from Sandra?
 - b. Mission Statement?
 - c. Format of show?
 - d. Maria appearing in October. Arthur may join. Will talk about BCOD, how to contact us (email, not town website), read from mission statement. Might be good to have Facebook page ready by then. Maybe mention meet and greet (need to decide on date and location).
- 17. Maria will talk about possible "Disability Meet & Greet"**
- a. In sept? Or other date?
 - i. Needs to be during the day. People don't want to drive at night. Suggest a few dates and see who is available and when.
 - b. hold off until after BATV?
 - i. Maybe mention during BATV spot
 - c. Location? (poss. BATV, St. Anne's, other?)
 - i. Can use church. Concern that it is on outskirts of town and people may not know where it is.
 - ii. BATV not open on weekends. Is central location. Has parking lot. Dina suggested talking to Isaac Wright-Lichter (Content Producer) or Tara Spingaerd (Director of Operations)

- d. **Who to invite? (Do we need to do outreach to special ed teachers and other disability people?)**

- i. Did not discuss

18. Social media presence? Status / Approval?

- a. Maria or Jason working on.

- b. **Dina's double check on permission? - Pending?**

- i. Clancy working on how to configure emails that are not town emails. The ask may not be clear, though. Might just need to know if it is ok to have a Facebook page for a town organization. Dina to ask tomorrow morning (20Sep24).

19. Membership – Darlene's application status?

- a. Darlene is now a member

20. Account finances.

- a. Did not discuss

21. Approval August minutes.

- a. Approved by all

22. Old Business.

- a. **Website Update**

- i. **Phone # - status of website listing? (should we have a process for what happens if Town gets call for us?)**

- 1. Updated to town manager's number: 978-671-0942

- ii. **Email – spam or previous subscriptions? (update from Maria?)**

- 1. Maria is constantly deleting and unsubscribing, but it has not improved.

- 2. Maria will contact Chris Bartlett who can put on a filter.

- iii. **Update membership list (- Terri, + Darlene?)?**

23. New Business.

- a. None

24. Adjournment.

ATTENDANCE: