

Stoneham Disability Committee Minutes
May 3, 2016

Meeting brought to order at 6:08 PM

Attendance: David Ragucci, Susan Coughlin, Kathleen Balestrier, William Cameron, Lorna Saulnier

Susan notified the committee that she had received a committee resignation letter from Howard Porter. She suggested that we send him a letter of appreciation. This was agreed upon by the committee members.

Susan gave an update on 200 Collincote Street. The Handicap Parking sign is up. Susan made observations that the verbiage on the sign is not in compliance with the regulations and that the sign was placed in an odd spot due to a large tree that is causing both view and access issues for wheel chairs. The large tree is popping up the side walk Susan asked David if something could be done with the tree. David explained that there is a State Law Governing Living Trees and that the tree could not just be removed without a hearing. David agreed to go and look at 200 Collincote Street to assess if it was an eminent danger and if something should be done.

Discussion was had regarding the purchasing of Handicap Parking Signs it was noted that the department of corrections sells them and that the cost was considerably less. DPW will compare pricing and make a purchase based on least cost.

Discussion was had regarding Montvale Ave. There are considerable safety issues on Montvale regarding curb cuts and the decaying sidewalks. David explained that there was no funding for this project. He recommended that the committee write a letter to the Board of Selectman with details of what work needs to be done. He explained that Eversource may come up Montvale Ave and if they do this would be the time for side walk and curb cut renovations. A letter to the selectman would put in in their minds when and if the time came for Eversource to begin their project.

Susan shared some observations from the new middle school of handicap accessibility non-compliance. David explained that the town has no control over the schools and that this would be a school committee issue. David explained that it had passed all State inspections. He recommended that the committee contact the school committee with the issues that were observed.

Susan talked about how there are issues right at Town Hall, that are barriers for the disabled. She mentioned that the elevator button that was written in braille was not correct both had the same thing written on them they either both say open or both say closed. She also talked about the wires that were exposed at the push button handicap accessible entrance.

Kathleen asked about whether there was any grant money from HUD or other organization that we could apply for. David said that the likely hood of getting any funding was slim but that it is never a bad idea to try. Stoneham is looked at as a wealthy community therefore funding would not be easy to obtain. David talked to the committee about the Community Preservation Act Each household charged \$50 monies would go towards recreation, affordability and disability projects.

Bill Went to the Regional Meeting in Andover MA. He shared that he had made some good contacts from Burlington and Wakefield and learned about committee requirements. He shared that other local disability committees would like to meet with us and share what works for them. He talked about how handicap Parking fines can be used for the disability committees mission of improving accessibility issues. Chapter 40, 22G.

William shared information regarding the 2016 Disability Summit being held on 9/16/16 –the topic is employment begins at 8 AM 415 Summer Street Boston, MA. Sue also mention the Abilities Expo being held at the same location (BCEC) that weekend and what a great experience and full of information about all kinds of disabilities and technology.

Susan shared her experiences in attending the Paralympics Experience and that they were looking for young people. She also shared some information that the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester received a grant from the MR8 Foundation. Susan also shared that on June 4th (10-3) at the Richard Artesani Park in Brighton (near the Harvard Stadium) the DCR would be hosting a recreation fair.

Organizations like Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Adaptive Sports New England, North East Passage...etc., would be in attendance.

Lorna asked about whether the town had any emergency preparedness procedures for people in town with disabilities. This was tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

David left the meeting at 6:45 PM

There was a declared Executive Session by the Board of Selectmen at the last minute so we had to move our meeting to the basement banquet hall and resume. A note was posted outside the original location.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Next Meeting tentatively scheduled for May 25, 2016 at 5:30 PM Susan will confirm date and time and notify the committee.

Agenda:

Old business

BOS meeting follow up

reports from members research

budget

discuss transportation to CAM training