



## OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

### **Marblehead Disabilities Commission**

November 13, 2024

LWVM Observer: Nancy Powell

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Mara Dartly-Rocco, Briggete Duffy, Amy Hirschcron, Cheryl LaLonde, Gail Mack, Samantha Marino (remote)

Guests Present: Kyle Wylie

#### 1. ADA Audit and Transition Plan

The Commission plans to invite the Town Administrator to a future meeting to get his input on the town's ADA Transition Plan that was completed by the Collins Center for Public Management last spring. There are many non-compliant areas in town that haven't yet been addressed and they will seek his advice on setting priorities. The Commission will propose that the Collins ADA report be published on the town website and include a list of the projects that have been completed and those that will be addressed next.

Ms. Blaisdell noted that the ADA audit had omitted the new library as it was under construction when municipal buildings were being evaluated for ADA compliance in 2022. She plans to contact the Collins center to see if they can come back and evaluate the building's accessibility features. It appears the "accessible" ramp now under construction at the library will still be out of compliance as the slope ratio appears to be too large.

#### 2. Website and Facebook Management

Ms. Mack has been making progress on the Commission's website. The Commission would like to become more active on social media platforms to improve visibility of their work and services offered.

### 3. Future Plans

Ideas for potential future projects include ensuring that more public meetings offer accessibility options and making Town Meeting more accessible by generating written materials in large print and providing personal amplification devices. (Ms. Marino will research to see what other assistive technology might be available for increasing accessibility for Town Meeting.) The Commission will also highlight businesses that focus on being ADA compliant by providing them with stickers with the MDC logo for display in their windows.

### 4. Gerry Playground

Ms. Hirschcron announced the formation of a planning committee (Friends of the Park on Elm) that will ensure ADA compliance is a focus in the redesign of the park currently located at the site of the former Gerry School. Ms. Hirschcron will reach out to the planning committee to offer support as needed.

Next meeting: December 11, 2024