



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

MARBLEHEAD DISABILITIES COMMISSION -June 5, 2024 at 4:15 at Abbot Hall
Hybrid meeting
LWVM Observer: Nancy Powell

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell (Chair), Dee Cuffe, Briggete Duffy, Amy Hirschcron (remote),
Gail Mack (new member), Samantha Marino (remote), Andrea Mountain (remote)

1. The Commission has begun working with town's new Sustainability Coordinator, Logan Casey, on an application for a \$250,000 grant to make accessibility improvements at Devereaux Beach. They have prioritized improving access to bathrooms, installing rubberized mats along pathways to create easier access for those who use mobility devices, and adding disability friendly picnic tables at the pavilion. The Chair will reach out to the beach restaurant to remind them of their obligation to repair their damaged ramp so that those with mobility impairments are afforded equal access. The idea of repaving the parking lot was ruled out because it would need to be done yearly due to shifting sands and the cost would be prohibitive.

The members identified Chandler Hovey Park as a secondary location that could benefit from significant upgrades should there be left over grant funds once improvements are made at Devereaux. The recently updated ADA transition plan noted the park needs better accessible parking, overall levelling of surfaces, additional accessible pathways, an updated pavilion and updated bathroom facilities.

2. Ms. Blaisdell completed an accessibility walk-through of the new Abbot Library with the Building Commissioner and Building Inspector on June 5th. A few minor issues were identified. The handrails leading to front door are on one-side rather than on both. The railings that leads to the rear door are too low and the automatic door opener speed needs to be adjusted.

3. Ms. Blaisdell reported that given the long duration of the unaddressed complaint regarding the building at 139 Pleasant Street, the Architectural Access Board notified the owner that a final hearing will be scheduled and fines will likely be imposed unless a new plan is presented by June 9th.

4. Long-time member, Ed Lang, has decided not to seek reappointment to the Disability Commission and members expressed gratitude for his service.