

**OBSERVER REPORT**

**MARBLEHEAD DISABILITIES COMMISSION** Thursday, February 10, 2022 via ZOOM

LWVM Observer, Nancy Powell

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell (Chair), Katie Farrell, Sue Harris, Amy Hirschcron, Ed Lang, Cheryl LaLonde, Samantha Marino, Andrea Mountain

Guests Present: Pamela Daly, Rich Ramos

1.)  **Harbor Lift Update**: The Commission has been working with the Harbor and Waters Board on plans to open up Marblehead Harbor to those with mobility impairments, including making boating available to all regardless of physical ability. Amy and Sue have drafted a proposal for installing a manual lift at Tuckers Wharf which the Commission members had the chance to review prior to today’s meeting. Members discussed whether State Street Dock might be more appropriate as Tucker’s is private and the public dock would provide easier access to restaurants and an accessible bathroom. Commission Members approved the plan and will revise it as necessary after getting input from the Harbormaster who has been supportive. Sue and Amy hope to get on the Harbors and Waters agenda (March 7th at 7:30pm) to present and get their proposal approved. They discussed how best to publicize and explore fundraising options for the lift and any modifications needed to make the location accessible.

2.) **Town Map of Accessible Locations**: The Members agreed to work with Katherine Koch, Executive Director of the Marblehead Chamber of Commerce to add an accessibility designation to “points of interest” on the Chamber’s Visitor’s Guide. They will also create a separate flyer to be inserted into the Guide that will be made available at the Information Booth. The flyer would offer a complete list of accessible businesses and public venues in Town.

3.) **139 Pleasant Street Update**: Laurie reported that the virtual hearing before the Architectural Access Board to consider the property owners’ request for a variance to ADA requirements has been rescheduled for February 28th at 1pm. The Commission sent a letter (signed by Laurie) to the AAB to reinforce their interest in a resolution that is on the side of maintaining accessibility. Laurie and Sue plan to attend the meeting and will report back to the Members regarding the outcome.

4.) **Future Invitees**: Board of Health Member, Joanne Miller, has indicated a wish to meet and discuss areas of mutual interest (including Crisis Intervention Training for Law Enforcement) and she will be invited to the March Commission meeting. The Commission agreed to postpone a planned invitation to the Board of Selectmen. The Commission discussed extending an invitation to John Devers (Highway Department) and John Albright (Building Inspector).

5.) **New Business:** The Commission discussed the need for a sign language interpreter and the right of disabled people to request accommodations for Town Meeting. Amy, Samantha, and Laurie agreed to work on the issue.