



## OBSERVER REPORT

**MARBLEHEAD DISABILITIES COMMISSION:** June 2, 2021 LWVM Observer: Nancy Powell  
Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell-Chair, Preston Ford, Sue Harris, Amy Hirschcron,  
Andrea Mountain Guests Present: Pamela Daly, Rich Ramos, Nancy Powell

### **Harbors and Waters**

The meeting began with a discussion of areas where the Town is out of compliance with 2010 ADA accessibility standards regarding harbor matters. Amy noted that, although the Harbormaster's Building houses accessible bathroom, laundry, and shower facilities, the wheelchair ramp brings users to a back entrance which remains locked. The Harbormaster had agreed to install a keypad that would allow a person with a mobility impairment to gain access to the building but hasn't done this. The Commission sent the Harbors and Waters Board a letter in December regarding ADA Compliance violations that need to be addressed but received no reply. The Commission is on the agenda of the upcoming Harbors and Waters Board meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, Laurie will press for: 1.) a specific date for installation of the keypad with a related promise to keep the rear entryway clear; 2.) a commitment from the Board to facilitate the installation of a moveable (privately funded) Hoyer lift somewhere along the harbor front; 3.) a commitment from the Board to work with the Commission to comply with the 2010 ADA Design Standards relating to harbor matters; and 5.) a recognition of the legal implications if they fail to **do so**.

### **139 Pleasant Street**

Amy and Sue gave an update on the status of 139 Pleasant Street, originally a mixed-use property whose owners had obtained a variance from the Zoning Board that would give them until 2/4/22 to comply with access requirements for the commercial first floor. In 2019 the owners withdrew their variance request and obtained a re-zoning to residential use only. More recently, the owners requested a return to zoning as mixed-use. The Commission is now working with the Mass Office on Disability (Jeff Dougan) to determine if this building, which has gone from mixed-use to residential and back to mixed-use (commercial on the first floor and residential above) would still need to comply with accessibility standards for a (first floor) commercial space.