

Planning & Sustainability • City of Northampton

resilience | regeneration | design | conservation | placemaking | mobility | accessibility | community development | historic | zoning | GIS | agriculture

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Disability Commission 4:00 PM, Wednesday July 29, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Members

Jeremy Macomber-Dubs, Chair X	Marianne LaBarge X	Keith Benoit, Staff X
Emma Cornwall, Vice Chair X	Gene Page X	Wayne Feiden, Staff X
Linda Kakos X	Clare Marilyn	
Rodney Kunath X	Michael Morton	X = present

1. Public comment.
 - No public comments.
2. First meeting with automatic transcription services (Otter). Wayne gave update on how to talk with it.
3. Feb 11, 2020 minutes- The Commission approved unanimously upon motion by Marianne LaBarge and second by Jeremy Macomber-Dubs.
4. Updates, introduction Keith Benoit the new ADA Coordinator.
5. Agreed on second Tuesday of September for next meeting. (Sep 8, 2020)
6. Wayne Feiden gave updated on CDGB and traffic mitigation to pay for curb cut ramps in the City. (Masonic Street, Bike trail, etc. the worst in the City). Project almost done. Giving NHA for curb ramps. Giving money to Arts Trust money for access ramp – focus on downtown with Covid. About to sign contract for North St to the bike path. Damon Rd. is out to bid for sidewalk entire length of Damon Rd. Roundabout on Bridge Rd. bike path connects. Roundabout near River Valley Market will get 1.5 miles of sidewalk. Discussed controversy. King Street up to bike path, road will be narrowed.
7. Upcoming projects:
 - New building downtown Resiliency Hub. Chronic and acute issues of resiliency. Higher population of people with disabilities. City will find space



but will be run by another agency. City is looking to find partner.

- Slow moving project for sidewalks for Bridge Street School. Had bad accident a few years ago. State is doing the design now.
- Revolving fund for sound in hearing room. Covid put on hold, but City is due diligence. Prioritize as City hall opens up.

8. Question raised on when Senior Center will open up.
9. Marianne LaBarge wants the Commission to get involved with the resiliency hub.
10. Biggest source of accessibility funding is CDBG. Keith Benoit will be working on that over the next few months.
11. Grants are very important. City is always looking for money. Small grant for Dept. of Health, most of attention is on accessibility. Reasonable accommodations discussion. How do we go forward with the grant? What are we missing? How do we use a consultant? Marianne LaBarge wanted transcription for City meetings as a need that Rodney has brought up for years. It would help with public participation. As we test Otter for transcription, sound is not good if sound system does not work. This is a onetime grant. Other grant is MOD, we got it 2 times out of 3. City did assessment of city policies and the other was accessibility around City hall. The grant is seeking interesting projects. What are the projects that we want to move forward with? Discussion over what the grant could be used for.
12. Discussion about what recreation area would be the most desirable to fix accessibility issues. Keith Benoit asked for clarification on the amount of the MOD grant award and whether that could be used for paying for the design of the bathroom accessibility at Council chambers.
13. Marianne LaBarge discussed the police reform committee for the City. She implored people to get involved.
14. Next meeting: Keith Benoit will send out the Agendas and Minutes going forward.
15. Adjourn at 4:46 PM unanimously upon motion by Jeremy Macomber-Dub and seconded by Marianne LaBarge.