



## Disability Commission Meeting Minutes August 22, 2025 12:00 Noon Zoom Webinar

The Commission meeting was called to order at Noon with the following members in attendance:

Bill Porter, Erich Manser, George Sanders, and Diane Crory. Absent: Gary Wilson.

As well a resident in attendance was Rob Rounce.

**The first item on the agenda was welcoming our newest member Bill Porter. Each member had an opportunity to welcome Bill and thank him for stepping up and bringing his perspective to the Board. All felt he would bring a great new perspective and were happy to have him. He has been through a lot, and we welcome a fresh set of eyes and ears to our group.**

**Grant Status** - Diane stated that the grant was fully submitted on time and that she heard from the State only that she needed to upload the Parks & Recreation Open Space Plan as the first time it was uploaded they could not open it. Other than that, they had all the details they needed, and we would hear sometime this fall.

**Signage Update Erich & Bill** - Both are working with the State to have the signage brought up to date and to have the legislation changed to have the wording in our MGL changed. Erich stated that the updated comes from the State level and that they did not realize how far along the State already is. They do not have to start from square one. Law C40 22A reads handicap for signage. Bill explained where the word handicap came from, which was quite interesting. He stated that the use of handicap to describe people who came forward in the 20th century is very offensive. It is the desire to have the word taken off all signage in Littleton as well as throughout the Commonwealth through the changing of the MGL. The desire is to change it to be accessible. Some signage in Littleton already reads accessible. It was asked if the signage should be changed and it was stated that it should not until the law changes.

The meeting was opened to Rob Rounce for his presentation/opportunity to ask for the board's support for the new Shaker Lane project. Rob first welcomed Bill Porter to the Commission and echoed everyone's previous words in that he too felt that Bill would be a great asset to the team and looked forward to seeing all that he would contribute. At that, Rob proceeded to state that the project was an important one in that he felt that this was one that the Town needed to get done now and not wait seven years down the road. The school was in much need of repair and that to build a new school was in the best interest of the entire community. He felt that this board should get behind the project and openly support it. He said that the project had started back in 2018, so it was not like it was a new project. He stated that the building is inadequate including the signage. The building needs updating now for ADA Compliance, we cannot wait another seven years. He said he would entertain any questions from the board.

Bill stated that he does not know enough about the project and the economic impact as well to decide at this point. He would entertain speaking with Rob offline.

Erich echoed Bill 's sentiment in that he does not know enough about the project either . He does not have a handle on where the vendors are at with the project . Do "they" understand design etc., are they vetted?

George said he is working on this, trying to educate the residents on the cost and economic impact on so many . He believes we will get a \$29.4 MIL grant, it is a debt exclusion, and the impact is about an additional \$847/year on an average taxpayer 's real estate bill. He stated that we have never been asked as a board to support such a large ticket item in the past and does not feel comfortable doing so now.

Diane abstained from that even though she is on the Disability Commission for her to comment one way or another the residents/voters see her as the Town Clerk . As the Town Clerk she must stay impartial and thus she will not take a vote or comment.

Rob stated that he will speak with Bill and Erich offline to bring them up to speed with the project and all it entails . George said that he is confident that we do not need to be involved, but we should be vocal and appropriate . Accordingly, Rob said that we need to vote.

We thanked Rob for attending and stated we would take it under advisement , but at this time we do not have the knowledge or the votes to support.

Meeting Schedule - we will do the second Friday of each month.

Next Meeting - Friday September 12 <sup>th</sup>

Erich made a motion to adjourn and seconded by George. Bill Porter - Aye; Erich Manser - Aye; George Sanders - Aye and Diane Crory - Aye the meeting was adjourned at 1:04pm.