

## Watertown Commission on Disability

September 24, 2025, 7 pm

**Attendance:** Kim Charlson, Lisa Feltner, Megan O'Halloran, Naomi Ridge, Cindy Wentz, Carol Menton, Rachel Kay, Stefanie (CART), Tyler Cote, George Donahue (guest)

**Absent:** Nayo Franck, John Hawes

### A. Chair's Report

*1. Final Report: Detectable Warnings at North Beacon & Beechwood – Kim*

These are done! The Perkins teachers are thrilled.

*2. Update on Waverly-Belmont Street Intersection from Wayne Chouinard*

They have put warnings on the Belmont Street, but not the Watertown side. Tyler will reach out to DPW about the Watertown side.

*3. Update on Francis Food Mart – Tyler & John*

John shared photos with Tyler. No action has been taken at this point, but Tyler forwarded this to the Zoning and Building inspectors in Watertown to determine next steps.

*4. ADA Signage as Recommended by the KMA Report – Tyler*

There will be a meeting with various stakeholders including the new ADA coordinator. There should be an update next time. They will review the KMA report and Liz Helfer's report from a couple years ago.

*5. New VSO/ADA Coordinator*

City has officially hired an ADA coordinator. His name is Jay Terminiello. Veteran of Navy and Army National Guard, with an emphasis of physical and mental health services. He has worked with the Commonwealth Executive Office. Tyler will help catch up Jay for a smooth transition. Jenna will also help with the transition. Jay will likely be at our next meeting.

*6. Faire on the Square Debrief – Carol & All*

It was a gorgeous day. Jenna made it so seamless and effortless with set up and clean up. We had two translators which allowed some of us to interact better with deaf members of our community. DPW filled in all the potholes.

*7. Update on Language Translation/ASL/CART Test – Carol & Nayo*

Nayo and Carol went in to City Hall and tried it out. There are still some logistics to work out as well as staff training (Tyler will work on Jay on this). They tested in different parts of City Hall

and connection stayed. Tyler shared signs that will be held about the availability of ASL interpreters. This also needs to be done at the Parker building and other locations in the city.

#### *8. Reasonable Accommodation Language on City Agendas & Event Notices – Tyler*

Language is on COD agenda, but we want it added to every single agenda. Tyler has a slightly modified version that is closer to KMA. This is with the lawyers. There is a challenge since agendas are only posted 48 hours in advance. It would be better to say accommodations should be requested by 48 hours in advance, but this may not be realistic. Cindy suggested this could be on the meeting announcement rather than the agenda. Tyler said this will be on all the board/commission web pages generally, but it would be great to have it on the agenda as well. Lisa mentioned there was a meeting about notification for community meetings. These are run by the developer but required by our zoning. Could we include those meetings to have the language? Those generally have much more notice.

#### *9. 311 Request Tagging to Include Accessibility Option Updates – Tyler*

Tyler met with Laura from 3-1-1 about adding an ADA tag in See-Click-Fix. Laura says that the app is somewhat limiting.

#### *10. Discussion & Vote for WFPL for Funding for ASL & CART for October 20-21*

Cindy: Crip Camp is being shown on the evening of October 20. The movie is caption and audio described, but we may want ASL and CART for pre and post discussion. The next night is a panel discussion and will definitely need ASL and CART. Both events are 6:30 pm at the library. Flyers have been created and they are working on PR. Please share!

Kim: we need two hours each night (6:30 to 8:30) and two interpreters.

Cindy: Do we need two for Monday night? Carol: two is helpful for the chit chat before and after.

Carol moves that we provide funding for not to exceed \$1300 for both nights for ASL and CART. Naomi seconded. Passes 7-0.

#### *11. Arsenal Park Amphitheater Path Surface – Lisa & Tyler*

The gravel used to fill in near the amphitheater and at the edge of the pathway is inaccessible. They had used gravel for drainage purposes. Also there are new bathrooms at Arsenal park, but they do not have an automatic door. There were a few other things, but the gravel is a problem even for able-bodied people who were trying to navigate it. Lisa and Kim will draft a letter from the Commission.

Lisa also encourages people to look at the plans for Bemis Park and weigh in.

#### *12. Accessible Entrances at City Hall – John*

The entrances have been in a discussion the KMA review discussion. We will report more next month when John returns. Tyler also received emails from David Leon.

#### *13. Sidewalk Obstacle at Common & Bellevue Street – Lisa*

The sidewalk has been made wider to go around poles for water regulation. It does impact the sightline for cars of the hill on Common Street.

*14. Discussion & Vote on Access CART/ASL for WHRC Disability Focus Group October 9 – Kim*

Kim and Cindy let Liz Peck know the form was a nightmare and inaccessible. Liz then contacted people with her phone and email. Kim will send the invite to Nayo, Carol, and Naomi.

Lisa expressed concern that it was not a public meeting, but was public dollars. Kim clarified that it is a private consultant hired by the Watertown Human Rights Commission, so it is public. Lisa noted this is a financial burden that other groups do not have. Lisa moves to approve funding for not more than \$650 for 2 ASL interpreters and 1 CART captioner, contingent on discussion with the city about if this is allowed. Naomi seconded. Passes 7-0

**Acceptance of Minutes for the May & June Meetings – Discussion/Vote – Rachel & Tyler**

Cindy moved for acceptance, Naomi seconded. Motion passes 7-0.

**Treasurer's Report – Tyler**

Tyler does not have MUNIS access still. Jay will have access and can deliver the depth of reports to which we have become accustomed. As of today there is \$124,458.51, encumbrances of \$2390.99. Kim decided we would vote next month.

**Committee Reports**

*A. Plans Review – John: Postponed to next month.*

*B. Special Education Update – Rachel*

The review of the Special Education program is delayed, but they hope to have something official by December. We did have an Integrated Monitoring Review by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that can be found [here](#).

*C. Safety and Access – Kim*

i. Cracks in Pavement on Pathway from Whites Avenue to Waverly Avenue – Kim & Naomi

No changes there.

ii. Detectable Warnings at Lexington & Main Streets Being Referred to Mass Highway – Kim

Kim met with Mass Highway who is responsible for the intersection and walked the corners with him and found which were not working. He will take care of that by mid-October. This has been a LONG time.

iii. There is a path from Main Street to Howard Street behind the Halfway Café.

This is a problem since it is related to the City of Cambridge. Naomi requested an update.

iv. Lisa noted the detectable warnings at Beechwood(ish) and Arsenal are not working. This is the same area as the trees in the sidewalks.

**New Business**

A. Next meeting – October 15, 2025 at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM – Via Zoom

***Changed to Wednesday October 22, 2025 at 7 pm.***

Kim: We would like Tom Brady from DPW to speak in November or December.

Lisa: There will be a report on the mobility study on October 21<sup>st</sup> City Council Meeting.

North and South Irving Park are repaved!

**Adjourn** at 8:27 pm.