



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY Wilbraham, Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of Thursday, April 26, 2018
Wilbraham Town Hall
240 Springfield St.

Members in Attendance: Maureen James, Beverly Litchfield, Marylou Fabbo, Barbara Harrington, Earl Way, Diane DaSilva & Kate Barlow

Members Absent: Jean Courtney

Town Staff in Attendance: Lance Trevallion.

Chairperson Marylou Fabbo called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Welcome new member: Maureen James. Maureen provided a summary of her work experience and volunteer experience. Members introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes:

Review of minutes from Thursday December 7, 2017. Beverly Litchfield motioned to approve the minutes and seconded by Diane DaSilva. All in Favor.

Committee Membership: Beverly Litchfield is leaving Wilbraham this June. There will be 3 open positions and 2 of the position require the member have a disability. Marylou Fabbo was nominated for chair by Barbara Harrington and seconded by Diane DaSilva. All in favor. Earl Way was nominated for vice-chair by Kate Barlow and seconded by Diane DaSilva. All in favor.

Status of Commission financial account:

Lance Trevallion reported the COD the balance of the Commission's account is still at \$1114.36.

CPA Grant Projects:

Fishing Pier: There is not an update on the bench. Lance Trevallion does not think there is room on the dock for a bench, but there is room for a bench on the ground. There is a cement pad, so anyone on a walker or stroller could get on it. Motion to purchase the bench was made by Earl Way and seconded by Beverly Litchfield. This was funded by the community preservation act. Lance Trevallion suggested group think about what to put on a plaque: such as "made possible by...."

Children's Museum: Project started 3 years ago. The land next door has been reduced in price, but there is currently short a lot of money to finish the ADA upgrades. The COD is asking for \$80,000 at the town meeting on May 14th to finish the ramp and upgrades.

Future projects:

Walking trail: Melissa in conservation is moving forward to request an easy walking trail up by the disability gardens. There are 4 raised beds. This will be voted on at the town meeting.

Handicap fine signs: COD can only put them on town properties. No agreement was ever made on the matter. Diane DaSilva says it is a problem in Wilbraham that people are illegally parking in the handicap spots. The placards are being misused and that is more of a problem. The commission on disability receives the fines, however there has only been one fine paid in years.

Marylou Fabbo suggests that the committee come up with ideas for future projects:
Earl Way proposed the idea of going to gas stations for handicap accessibility.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours Before Meeting:

Remote participation: Marylou Fabbo provided a handout on the laws on remote participation. A speaker phone can be used. The chair person needs to be physically at the building but the rest of the members can be on speaker phone.

An appeal to AAB from Boston from Miles Morgan apartments was announced.

Next Public Meeting:

Thursday, May 24, 2018, 4:30 pm at Wilbraham Town Hall.

Following meeting June 14, 2018 at Spec Pond.

Barbara Harrington volunteered to take notes at the May 24th meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Barbara Harrington. Seconded by Kate Barlow. All in Favor.
Meeting Adjourned at 5:22 pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Kate Barlow.

Approved 5/24/18

940 CMR: OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

940 CMR 29.00: OPEN MEETINGS

Section

29.01: Purpose, Scope and Other General Provisions

29.02: Definitions

29.03: Notice Posting Requirements

29.04: Certification

29.05: Complaints

29.06: Investigation

29.07: Resolution

29.08: Advisory Opinions

29.09: Other Enforcement Actions

29.10: Remote Participation

29.11: Meeting Minutes

29.01: Purpose, Scope and Other General Provisions

(1) Purpose. The purpose of 940 CMR 29.00 is to interpret, enforce and effectuate the purposes of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18 through 25.

(2) Severability. If any provision of 940 CMR 29.00 or the application of such provision to any person, public body, or circumstances shall be held invalid, the validity of the remainder of 940 CMR 29.00 and the applicability of such provision to other persons, public bodies, or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

(3) Mailing. All complaints, notices (except meeting notices), and other materials that must be sent to another party shall be sent by one of the following means: first class mail, email, hand delivery, or by any other means at least as expeditious as first class mail.

29.02: Definitions

As used in 940 CMR 29.00, the following terms shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

County Public Body means a public body created by county government with jurisdiction that comprises a single county.

District Public Body means a public body with jurisdiction that extends to two or more municipalities.

Emergency means a sudden, generally unexpected occurrence or set of circumstances demanding immediate action.

(f) that minutes, records or other materials be made public; or

(g) other appropriate action.

Orders issued following a hearing shall be available on the Attorney General's website.

(4) A public body subject to an order of the Attorney General following a written determination issued pursuant to 940 CMR 29.07 shall notify the Attorney General in writing of its compliance with the order within 30 days of receipt of the order, unless otherwise indicated by the order itself. A public body need not notify the Attorney General of its compliance with an order requiring solely immediate and future compliance pursuant to 940 CMR 29.07(2)(b)(1) or 940 CMR 29.07(3)(a).

(5) A public body or any member of a body aggrieved by any order issued by the Attorney General under 940 CMR 29.07 may obtain judicial review of the order through an action in Superior Court seeking relief in the nature of certiorari. Any such action must be commenced in Superior Court within 21 days of receipt of the order.

29.08: Advisory Opinions

The Attorney General will generally not issue advisory opinions. However, the Attorney General may issue written guidance to address common requests for interpretation. Such written guidance will appear on the Attorney General's website.

29.09: Other Enforcement Actions

Nothing in 940 CMR 29.06 or 29.07 shall limit the Attorney General's authority to file a civil action to enforce M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18 through 25, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 23(f).

29.10: Remote Participation

(1) Preamble. Remote participation may be permitted subject to the following procedures and restrictions. However, the Attorney General strongly encourages members of public bodies to physically attend meetings whenever possible. By promulgating 940 CMR 29.10, the Attorney General hopes to promote greater participation in government. Members of public bodies have a responsibility to ensure that remote participation in meetings is not used in a way that would defeat the purposes of the M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18 through 25, namely promoting transparency with regard to deliberations and decisions on which public policy is based.

(2) Adoption of Remote Participation. Remote participation in meetings of public bodies is not permitted unless the practice has been adopted as follows:

(a) Local Public Bodies. The Chief Executive Officer, as defined in M.G.L. c. 4, § 7, must authorize or, by a simple majority, vote to allow remote participation in accordance with the requirements of 940 CMR 29.10, with that authorization or vote applying to all subsequent meetings of all local public bodies in that municipality.

(b) Regional or District Public Bodies. The regional or district public body must, by a simple majority, vote to allow remote participation in accordance with the requirements of 940 CMR 29.10, with that vote applying to all subsequent meetings of that public body and its committees.

(c) Regional School Districts. The regional school district committee must, by a simple majority, vote to allow remote participation in accordance with the requirements of 940 CMR 29.10, with that vote applying to all subsequent meetings of that public body and its committees.

(d) County Public Bodies. The county commissioners must, by a simple majority, vote to allow remote participation in accordance with the requirements of 940 CMR 29.10, with that vote applying to all subsequent meetings of all county public bodies in that county.

(e) State Public Bodies. The state public body must, by a simple majority, vote to allow remote participation in accordance with the requirements of 940 CMR 29.10, with that vote applying to all subsequent meetings of that public body and its committees.

(f) Retirement Boards. A retirement board created pursuant to M.G.L. c. 32, § 20 or M.G.L. c. 34B, § 19 must, by a simple majority, vote to allow remote participation in accordance with the requirements of 940 CMR 29.10, with that vote applying to all subsequent meetings of that public body and its committees.

(g) Local Commissions on Disability. In accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(e), a local commission on disability may by majority vote of the commissioners at a regular meeting authorize remote participation applicable to a specific meeting or generally to all of the commission's meetings. If a local commission on disability is authorized to utilize remote participation, a physical quorum of that commission's members shall not be required to be present at the meeting location; provided, however, that the chair or, in the chair's absence, the person authorized to chair the meeting, shall be physically present at the meeting location. The commission shall comply with all other requirements of law.

(3) Revocation of Remote Participation. Any person or entity with the authority to adopt remote participation pursuant to 940 CMR 29.10(2) may revoke that adoption in the same manner.

(4) Minimum Requirements for Remote Participation.

(a) Members of a public body who participate remotely and all persons present at the meeting location shall be clearly audible to each other, as required by M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(d);

(b) A quorum of the body, including the chair or, in the chair's absence, the person authorized to chair the meeting, shall be physically present at the meeting location, as required by M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(d);

(c) Members of public bodies who participate remotely may vote and shall not be deemed absent for the purposes of M.G.L. c. 39, § 23D.

(5) Permissible Reason for Remote Participation. If remote participation has been adopted in accordance with 940 CMR 29.10(2), a member of a public body shall be permitted to participate remotely in a meeting, in accordance with the procedures described in 940 CMR 29.10(7), only if physical attendance would be unreasonably difficult.

(6) Technology.

(a) The following media are acceptable methods for remote participation. Remote participation by any other means is not permitted. Accommodations shall be made for any public body member who requires TTY service, video relay service, or other form of adaptive telecommunications.

i. telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing;

ii. any other technology that enables the remote participant and all persons present at the meeting location to be clearly audible to one another.

(b) When video technology is in use, the remote participant shall be clearly visible to all persons present in the meeting location.

(c) The public body shall determine which of the acceptable methods may be used by its members.

(d) The chair or, in the chair's absence, the person chairing the meeting, may decide how to address technical difficulties that arise as a result of utilizing remote participation, but is encouraged, wherever possible, to suspend discussion while reasonable efforts are made to correct any problem that interferes with a remote participant's ability to hear or be heard clearly by all persons present at the meeting location. If technical difficulties result in a remote participant being disconnected from the meeting, that fact and the time at which the disconnection occurred shall be noted in the meeting minutes.

(e) The amount and source of payment for any costs associated with remote participation shall be determined by the applicable adopting entity identified in 940 CMR 29.10(2).

(7) Procedures for Remote Participation.

(a) Any member of a public body who wishes to participate remotely shall, as soon as reasonably possible prior to a meeting, notify the chair or, in the chair's absence, the person chairing the meeting, of his or her desire to do so and the reason for and facts supporting his or her request.

(b) At the start of the meeting, the chair shall announce the name of any member who will be participating remotely. This information shall also be recorded in the meeting minutes.

(c) All votes taken during any meeting in which a member participates remotely shall be by roll call vote.

(d) A member participating remotely may participate in an executive session, but shall state at the start of any such session that no other person is present and/or able to hear the discussion at the remote location, unless presence of that person is approved by a simple majority vote of the public body.

(e) When feasible, the chair or, in the chair's absence, the person chairing the meeting, shall distribute to remote participants, in advance of the meeting, copies of any documents or exhibits that he or she reasonably anticipates will be used during the meeting. If used during the meeting, such documents shall be part of the official record of the meeting, and shall be listed in the meeting minutes and retained in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 22.

(8) Further Restriction by Adopting Authority. 940 CMR 29.10 does not prohibit any person or entity with the authority to adopt remote participation pursuant to 940 CMR 29.10(2) from enacting policies, laws, rules or regulations that prohibit or further restrict the use of remote participation by public bodies within that person or entity's jurisdiction, provided those policies, laws, rules or regulations do not violate state or federal law.

(9) Remedy for Violation. If the Attorney General determines, after investigation, that 940 CMR 29.10 has been violated, the Attorney General may resolve the investigation by ordering the public body to temporarily or permanently discontinue its use of remote participation.

29.11: Meeting Minutes

(1) A public body shall create and maintain accurate minutes of all meetings, including executive sessions, setting forth the date, time and place, the members present or absent, a summary of the discussions on each subject, a list of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting, the decisions made and the actions taken at each meeting, including the record of all votes, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 22(a).

(2) Minutes of all open and executive sessions shall be created and approved in a timely manner. A "timely manner" will generally be considered to be within the next three public body meetings or within 30 days, whichever is later, unless the public body can show good cause for further delay. The Attorney General encourages public bodies to approve minutes at the next meeting whenever possible.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY 940 CMR 29.00: M.G.L. c. 30A, § 25(a) and (b).