



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
MAYOR**

**COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
8 February 2022  
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday February 8th, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

**AGENDA**

**Attendance**

**Commission**

Bonnie

Liam

Hollie

Colin (expired)

Brian (expired)

Katie (temporary secretary)

Adrienne (ADA coordinator)

**Guests**

Adam Polinski (Mobility /OSPCD)

Kate White

Captioner Nancy

Henry Edward Hardy

Harriott Ranreg (ORS steering committee)

Denise Molina Capers

Jesse Clinghan (Ward 4 City Counsel)

Crystal Hutt

Jamie Perconi

Ginny Alverson

## 2. Pearl St. Design Review: Presented by Adam Polinski

Pearl Street Design proposal for the eastern section of Pearl Street

\*\*Project is not the full length of Pearl Street – starts on McGrath Street to Mt. Vernon. Split into sections:

1. McGrath Highway to Cross Street,
2. Cross Street to Franklin Street (include the school)
3. Franklin Street to Mt. Vernon

Treatments will include traffic calming strategies such as speed humps, neighborhood traffic circle

Will include repaving the side walks

We will be sure cars to not park within 20 feet of interaction so that pedestrians are fully visible

### Comments/Feedback from Commission

1. What is the width of the sidewalks?
  - a. Answer: Varies. But not narrower than 7 feet from street to property.
2. How much of a sidewalk has utility poles/tree wells?
  - a. That is 2 ½ - 3 feet. There are some trees on the street. Will sections with trees still have a wide enough travel lane? Adam says yes but we don't design everything in the project – we will give the contractor a standard width and they won't go any wider. Will not go below the typical minimum used by the city.

Comments from attendees

- Should be more bike access.
- City does not goes far enough to protect/create accessible parking. Example: There is accessible parking at the ESCS but it is not close to the door,

Lian:

Brian says the sidewalk reconstruction will maintain the existing trees ---- passage will never be less than 36 inches. Will be using a porous paved material to avoid lifting of the panels. Bonnie – wants to know why they don't use a bump out. Brian says we don't believe there is a need for a tree bump out – it is a strategy we would use if we needed to...but if we don't have parking on that side of the street that is not an option. In addition – if we chose to do a bumpout we would maintain a point of travel at the back of sidewalk to make navigation more consistent for someone with sight impairments. Bonnie – thinks there needs to be more eyes on this matter.

Hollie: She believes the city strives for 4-6 feet of sidewalk. This is a “book job. How does the process look on a book job when obstructions occur or exist, and who from the ADA makes sure everything is accurate.

No contractor has been chosen yet.

Medford Street was also a book job

Harriett – public member. What is a “book job”? standard details from Mass Highway and MAAB. Like a formula.

Is there a projected time frame? Contracts generally take 2 years.

Does a plan like this cover traffic lights? Are there traffic lights in those section? Answer: there is a traffic light at Pearl/Cross but signal work is not included in this book job. The traffic lights are not “audible pedestrian signal”. It is a priority to start changing them to audible pedestrian signals.

City is taking full inventory of traffic signals.

Colin – Note- the city has and a policy on the books. Whenever a pedestrian signal is replaced it must be replaced by a traffic signal with an audible pedestrian signal

Kate White from the city says there is a feedback survey <https://voice.somervillema.gov/pearlstreet>

### **3.Coordinator’s Report Adrienne Pomeroy**

Mayor is keeping with her plan to increase diversity and access to all commissions. All new appointment opportunities will be posted publicly. Email the legislative liaison, Hannah with any follow up questions.

## **4. Chair’s Report**

Update on mass.dot request for a variant to not be compliant with the regulations for the sidewalk slope on the corner of McGrath and Poplar. The discussion will be moved to a full-hearing. Hearing most likely on February 28<sup>th</sup>. No agenda set yet.

Pause on all new appointments to commissions.

## 5. New Business

### Current and future Commission make-up

Colin Killick: Has been commission since 2012. Chair from 2012-2019. According to commission bylaws Colin's formal involvement needs to "take a break". The Commission attempted to amend the bylaws and believed Colin was granted the other term. The city has no record of the latest appointment or the approval. Someone needs reach out to city solicitor. Colin is not interested in being an associate commissioner at this time. He will reach out to city solicitor. Consensus of commission: Losing Colin would be a great loss of institutional knowledge.

Bonnie Denis and Lian Guertin:

Moving to Malden the end of February 2022. Current bylaws say once they no longer live in in Somerville, they are no longer able to serve of the Commission. However, Councilor Clinghan submit a council order this week asking for an exemption for people who have to move out of the city to serve out their term.

Henry Hardy:

Mayor's pause on commission appointments means that Henry cannot be sworn in a commissioner right now. Very frustrating b/c he has been a contributing member of meetings for many months and it is very hard to be a functioning commission with so few commissions. Hollie motions to nominate Henry to be an Associate Commissioner. It is not a formal voting role but will give him more of an official capacity. Bonnie 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voting members voted in favor

### Article 80: Disability Checklist from the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA)

Develop by BPDA and intended to be used as a tool to ensure that accessibility is planned at the beginning of projects and continues throughout development rather than after design and construction are completed. It aims to ensure that projects not only meet minimum MAAB/ADA requirements, but that they create a built environment which provides equitable experiences for all people, regardless of age or ability.

General consensus in commission that we should look into creating something similar for Somerville. Has a lot of checks and balances. We would want to include universal design.

Has great value and should be discussed further.

## **6. ADA Coordinator Role**

Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator reintroduced herself and highlighted her education and professional background.

## **7. Additional Things**

- Several members of the Commission will attend a \_\_\_\_\_ meeting.
- Meeting Minutes will be put at the top of March agenda
  - July 2021
  - August 2021
  - September 2021
  - December 2021
  - Supplemental meeting in January 2022

**Motion to Adjourn Meeting; approved unanimously.**