

Old Library Accessibility Committee
Meeting Minutes July 2, 2019
Upper Town Hall – Volunteers Meeting Room
13 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA

Members Present: Chris Cutler, Pete Jackson, Mark Mikitarian, Lucy Wallace

Clerk of the Works: Carl Sciple

Guests: Joan Eliyesil, *Harvard Press*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lucy Wallace at 9 AM.

Administrative

The minutes for the June 25, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

The invoice from Abacus through May 31, 2019 was postponed for approval pending clarification of charges for the South Porch. Lucy will follow up with Marie Sobalvarro and David Pollack.

Update on Construction

The following issues and topics were discussed:

1. *Exit Sign:* Ramos (the Town's electrician) has completed installation of the exit sign.
2. *Ramp:* Carl Sciple reported Gabe Vellante had inspected the ramp and found it does not comply with ADA slope requirements. Correcting this may require a significant adjustment, one option being to raise the lower end as much as 4". Rinaldi is aware of this issue and knows it must be corrected immediately, as a change in the height of the lower end may require a change in the path. Hopefully there are options to correct the slope that will not impact and require additional work on the path. When asked how this had happened, Carl noted it is up to the contractor to make sure the ramp and path are ADA compliant.
3. *Fire Box and Beacon:* Both have been installed. The conduit needs to be painted to match the brick.
4. *Oak Tree:* Carl reported that he had met with Matt Shields regarding the cost of assessing a tree for replacement value and he sense of the health of the tree. Matt felt the estimate we had been given for an arborist's assessment (\$1,500) was correct. Another local arborist, Carl Carhart, had also been contacted. Both noted the installation of the front stairs and shifting of the path might have a negative impact on the tree and cause it be lost; however it might take longer than two years for that to happen. The contract with Rinaldi calls for retention of \$5,000 from the final payment for two years as penalty for the loss of a tree. We could also seek replacement costs, should we want to get an assessment from an arborist. Pete Jackson noted the tree's roots extend throughout the site and that the tree has suffered from the required excavation for the foundations for the stairs, the ramp paving and the ramp structure. In addition, it has suffered from assaults over the years from work done on the site (underground drainage lines, the buried wall, etc.). Therefore, proving the construction methods of the current project was the cause of the tree's loss would be difficult. After some discussion it was agreed to forego the assessment by an arborist and limit our possible reimbursement to the \$5,000 penalty currently provided in the contract. Lucy will advise Marie.
5. *Installation of Railings:* Further work on the ramp is on hold until the ramp issue is corrected.
6. *Granite Pavers:* Carl reported the pavers for the landing have been delivered. Installation will be done once the ramp issue has been corrected.

7. *Entry Tile:* Pete is still waiting to hear from the local tiler to get an estimate for this work. Chris Cutler has spoken with the tiler he knows who would need to see the area to be tiled before giving an estimate. Rinaldi's contact is busy until later this summer and, if used, would result in a higher cost with the addition of Rinaldi's administrative costs. Both Pete and Chris felt their contacts might not be available until late July or August. Mark Mikitarian asked about Rinaldi's expected completion date. Lucy will ask Marie to get that information from Rinaldi. The question of needing specs for the tile work in order to bid the project. Wendy was to have contacted Austin for this work. As Wendy was not present, there was no update.
8. *Long Boarding Festival:* Mark raised his concern about use of the ramp and path by long boarders during the long boarding festival in early August. He wondered if the site should be fenced off. Lucy will speak to Tim Bragan and Tim Kilhart about this matter, particularly as it could pose a liability for the town if long boarders got hurt using the ramp or path.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45. Members went to the Old Library for a walk thru.

Next meeting: July 9, 2019 at 9 AM in Volunteers Meeting Room