

CITY OF BARRE
ADA Committee
Minutes
June 17, 2021 10:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order: 10:03 by Marichel in absence of Ericka or Dena
2. Welcome Guests – DPW Bill Ahearn
3. Adjustments to Agenda: Bill Ahearn to speak to Traffic Items
4. Approval of last meeting minutes – Bern moves, Marichel 2nd

5. Old Business:

a. Grievances: none

B. Bill Ahearn DPW Question from Hillary about barrels for safety in front of Tilden House. Bill reports working on Aggressive Driver behaviors with TAC. Barrel will draw attention to the crosswalk there, but is not protection from errant drivers. Looking to use a rapid flash signal in a couple of places around the city. Seasonally place xwalk signs closest to the street side of the sidewalk. Will also look into water-filled barriers to create safety for peds. St. Painting is 70% crosswalk, Main st will be night job, all school access painting done, stop bars at 50%, symbols are at 50%, the new paint machine is still waiting delivery – for lane demarcations. Bill will check on the lighting at 1st & 2nd st xwalk. (should be in)

GMT Bus Stop near NBM – programmed for early August – several steps to making it safer are in the works. Working on other sidewalks. Hillary asked about Library/Elks Club has torn-up placement – Bill says it should be done, so he will make sure it's completed. Beckley/NBM driveway – problem with puddling in the drive, and attempts have been made to remedy but will likely require a large fix, next year. Bern asks more positive PR outreach from DPW, to help city focus on positive outcomes regarding DPW and Streets/sidewalks.

c. Jeff report re: permitting for banners.

Application is required with a 15 day waiting period. Jeff will forward application to ADA committee to see.

d. working group reports /Bern & Marichel proposal to mayor for upgrade to website; see 6c Marichel; (Dena report re: TAC deferred)

Marichel screen shared Recommendation for Improving Accessibility of Barre City Website. (attached to minutes) For submission to Mayor and Council. Bern moved approval to send to Mayor and Hillary seconded it, approved. Bern will send to Ericka for submission.

6. New Business:

a. Warning for election of officers. **Deferred to next meeting,** with more active recruiting. Ericka – public statement – all committee members will work to actively recruit in their walks of life and jobs.

b. Discuss meeting place/ in person/ remote for future. Ericka took over chair at this time. Reviewed Open Meeting laws – ADA Committee is mixed in person and ZOOM. ZOOM for July or until City is prepared for hybrid.

c. Marichel introduced the idea of a Barre City Advisory Council or task force and is investigating the opportunity for Elders to be more community involved.

7. Next Meeting date: July 15, 2021

8. Adjourn: 11:03

Respectfully submitted,
Bern Rose
Sec. ADA Committee

Recommendation for Improving Accessibility of Barre City Website to Barre City Council

June 2021

Submitted by Barre City "Americans With Disabilities Act" (ADA) Committee

Recommendation: To bring Barre City Website in compliance with ADA and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), we recommend the City implement UserWay.com plug-in, utilizing CARES funds for municipalities to pay initial set up costs and first year fee. If CARES funds are not available, that adjustments to the budget, fund the first year fee and set-up costs, and funding be in the annual budget as part of City Website IT.

Estimated Costs:

- a. \$500 for one year annual fee to UserWay.com which allows up to 100,000 monthly page views.
- b. Funds TBD for WEB tech (Rikk Taft) and Eternity (Mike Lannen) to implement UserWay on the City Website.

Needs Statement: Currently the Barre City Website is not accessible with e-readers, for some with visual disabilities, and lacks the ability for adjustments that are necessary for use by some members of the community. We want to make sure we aren't isolating community members with disabilities that would not be able to access the info on the city website. COVID has expanded the dependency upon internet resources for general information and access to vital needs information. We want to make sure all our many citizens with disabilities have access to the info on the city website.

Simple tasks like "call City Hall" become a challenge if finding that info is not accessible. Reviewing public city documents, minutes of meetings, City Council agendas are inaccessible on the web who use e-readers or have visual impairment.

Existing Resources: Currently ADA committee member, Marichel Vaught has worked with Exec City Mgr Asst Jody Norway and IT, Rikk Taft to place a COVID banner with vital info on the City Home Page, and collaborating to make the website more accessible.

Example of Use: COVE (Community of VT Elders) currently uses Userway.com with success making their site accessible.

Frequency of Request: Userway charges an annual fee of \$500 for up to 100,000 views per month. The set-up IT cost to the City would be one time. By using CARES funding for the initial set up, the City will have a substantial upgrade of the accessibility of the web site.

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More info About UserWay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrwJZ9Y91CU>

<https://userway.org/about> Check it out: <https://www.vermontelders.org/>
and click on the orange icon on the rights side of the page.