

**CITY OF BARRE  
ADA Committee  
MEETING**

**(Thursday 11/19/20 10:00 a.m.)**

Present: Marichel Vaught; Ericka Reil, Janell Perry, Hillary Cole, Bernadette Rose

Absent: Jeff Bergeron, Dena Estivil

1. Call to order 10:02a.m

2. Adjustments to the Agenda: Ericka - the "Autism Flag" voted on by City Council.

3. Ericka – Barre Partnership outreach. Bern and Ericka met (zoom) with Tracie Lewis of the Barre Partnership re: keeping sidewalk/entries clear and accessible during winter. Tracie was very positive and offered to work up the info into the upcoming BP newsletter. Bern and Ericka sent Tracie some proposed language. Ericka shared the screen with Tracie's proposed "flyer" that is encouraging businesses to keep their doorways/ramps clear and welcoming. Approved by all.

Flyer: depicts black and white cutout of city buildings with blue snowflake background, and a heart saying "we love our community". reads: "Support Barre Businesses This Winter. Safe Winter Sidewalks. Keeping downtown open & Accessible for everyone including people using mobility aids, elders, and young families. Our Barre businesses understand what works to keep their business as accessible as possible. Shop Local- Show Downtown Barre This Winter. For specific guidance or information in supporting ADA guidelines, contact Ericka: [ericka@vcil.org](mailto:ericka@vcil.org)" The Barre Partnership Logo.

4. Social Media. Ericka reports having spoken with Jody, Steve McKenzie (mgr) , and someone from Fire Dept (sorry – add here) regarding making website and social media announcements accessible. She feels the needs of the disability community in this regard are not understood. She provided them with handouts and is searching for on line training/resources. She acknowledged that they are busy, COVID, and learning new platforms can be tricky. Marichel

offered to work with the City by making media “accessible”. Bern moved that we accept Marichel’s offer, second Ericka.

Discussion: Marichel is willing to build a relationship of support to reduce the burden on City Employees at this time, and so this process is collaborative, resulting in social media accessibility challenges being met. Ericka will address this with the City and pave the way for Marichel. (issues: screen shots/jpgs/photo formats cannot be translated and often unable to read. Having Closed Captioning available on City Council and other public and committee meetings happening virtually. The importance of putting money in the budget should an interpreter be requested.)

Vote: Unanimous approval, and gratitude for Marichel’s offer.

4. Bern reported that the City has been working to install speed tables & bumps. humps. Speed tables going in at 40 Ayers St., 96 Circle St., 105 Allen St., and 60 Merchant St. A speed bump installed on Park Street. Public works (Bill Ahearn) Hoping to use the rest of the speed bump material on Merchant’s Row.

Bulb outs for Washington Street should be on-site soon if not already there. Pedestrian signs will be installed on both sides of the post to be visible from each direction. Bulb-outs will be located on a single side of Washington Street & Metro Way, dangerous intersection. Concerns about traffic coming from state parking lot – possibly a 4 –way stop.

Bill Ahearn will rearrange signs on posts to bring STOP to a more visible height at Depot Square.

5. Flag – Ericka spoke to the new flag policy, and the resolution including flying an “Autism” flag for April. The proposed flag is a “puzzle” flag and she said the Autism community is now using an “autism acceptance” flag. She feels that as the ADA committee we should support a more universal flag that represents the disability community as a whole and not just a part of it. Marichel gave a synopsis of the passage of the flag policy and the new flag resolution for the next 22 months. Marichel reflected that the Diversity and Equity Committee would like to have an opportunity to review the flags and agrees that the autism flag proposed is not representative of ADA. Marichel also noted that the flag resolution could be revisited after town meeting in March. Hillary showed us examples of more inclusive disability flags - link to these:

<https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https://i.imgur.com/1p7O5ac.jpg&imgrefurl=https://imgur.com/gallery/sv9hd&tbnid=YRLwuG2O3xYiMM&vet=1&docid=iuC62YQUMIqFpM&w=720&h=514&source=sh/x/im>

No action was taken at this time, and the matter tabled until a later date.

6. ROUND TABLE Hillary:

Bus Stop across from N.B. Manor. – Hillary spoke to the danger at this bus stop which we addressed last year due to the fact that is located in the middle of a sidewalk, is not plowed and there is no room to safely stand and wait for the bus. This bus stop and cross-walk were supposed to be moved, but was put on hold because of COVID. Ericka noted that Corrections is not shoveling bus shelters. Ericka will invite GMT to ADA next meeting. (where is the city on this ?)

Marichel – willing to work to assist closed captioning and screen sharing of documents/packets at City Council.

Ericka, because Jeff is absent, will present these concerns and offer, to City Council next week.

Bern: spoke to changing the autism flag into a more inclusive disability flag.

Janell: good with this. Asked about city council meeting access – Zoom link is in the agenda at: <https://www.barrecity.org/city-council/>

To do: Ericka: Invite GMT to next meeting

Ericka: Bring Marichel's offer for cc and making docs accessible at City Council

Ericka: Attend Mon nite Zoom Diversity and Equity Committee re: autism flag

7. Next ADA committee Meeting – Dec. 17 10 a.m. zoom

8. Adjourned: 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bern Rose (aka Bernadette)

(I can attached the BP photo to an email, but can't include in these minutes – Marichel?\_)