

**METUCHEN ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES from September 22, 2021**

Borough Council Liaison: Sheri-Rose Rubin

Present:

Members:

Michael Geschlecht, Wesley Brooks, Robin Brown, , Pat Kay Audra Sbarra (Chair), Sheri-Rose Rubin

Absent: Jennifer Asprocolas Todd Pagel, Cathy Ostermueller ( Senior Center Liasian) Rena Kallman, Dave Kallman

Public in attendance: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

**Green print Initiative /Town projects**

- Green print is currently on hold at this time.
- An ordinance was passed last week to prevent the land from being sold in case sale does not go through.
- The goal is to upgrade the greenway and extend it to increase recreational use.
- Audra noted that when things gear back up, the committee should have a voice to ensure accessibility is addressed in the project.
- Pat also concerns on the accessibility of the new arts center and that the committee's voice heard on the project. Right now, the project is on hold.

## **Committee Happenings for the rest of 2021 and 2022 ideas**

- Conversations have been a good start this year
- Sheri noted that at this point it may be best to hold off the community conversations at this point.
- Pat noted that in the future it may be better to have an “open mic” night to get an idea of what people are enjoying, having difficulty with, resources etc. to better serve the community and town and increase visibility with a clear mission of what the committee does.
- Audra addressed that while a mic night would be a good idea, there needs to be a clear direction on the purpose of putting it together as to topics etc. with an emphasis on the needs of the borough.
- Robin noted that a challenge is also finding people in the special needs community and people’s needs differ greatly from parents, caretakers, persons with disabilities who are working etc. This could be grouped into different sessions.
- These would start in early 2022.
- Audra asked members to think about whether to keep moving forward, strengths and individual contributions for 2022.

## **Restaurants/Dining Downtown**

- Pat noted that the tents on new street cause some accessibility concerns as an already narrow street and sidewalks are packed tight with tents. It is difficult for mobility devices to maneuver curbs.
- She also wanted to know if there are any regulations that are in place to accommodate this.
- Audra and several other committee members will meet with the zoning committee to address suggestions and concerns on specific areas at a future date to be determined.
- Sheri also noted there is public comment for the widening of sidewalks and intersections on Main and New Street.

**Next Meeting Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM via Zoom**