

Minutes – FINAL

Brookline Commission on Disability

Variance Sub-Committee

Thursday, March 24, 2022; 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting held via Zoom

Members in Attendance: Joan Mahon; Rob Heist; Jim Lee, Chair

Members not in Attendance: Jim Miczek

Note taker: Joan Mahon

Presenter: Jim Lee, Chair

Members of the public in attendance: Sarah Kaplan, ADA Coordinator

Introductions/Public Comment: None

The Brookline Commission on Disability (BCOD) variance subcommittee conducted a meeting on March 24, 2022, at 11AM. The meeting was called to order by Jim Lee at 11:07 AM. Sarah Kaplan had to leave the meeting at 11:15 AM

The purpose of the meeting was to review a variance application submitted to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) by the Town of Brookline with architect William Rawn Associates. The variance was seeking relief for the following provisions of 521 CMR: 28.12.4, 28.12.5a, and 28.12.5b.

The Town / Architect were seeking to install a chairlift between the 3rd and 4th floor at the Brookline High School located at 115 Greenough St. Brookline, MA.. The elevator serving these floors was under repair and was expected to be out of service for the remainder of the school year. The town and the school requested the emergency installations of the rented, temporary, chair style incline lift from the 3rd floor to the 4th floor. Vertical platform lifts are currently not available and installation of a platform lift would not have been completed until after the end of the school year. The incline style chairlift was available, and could be installed in ~2 weeks.

The need for an emergency chairlift came about due to prolonged maintenance issues with the elevator. These issues resulted in a wheelchair bound student getting stuck between the 3rd and 4th floor for ~1 hour.

Rob Heist explained the difference between a platform lift and a chair lift. A platform lift is separate from the stairs and rises vertically beside the staircase and a chair lift is attached to the staircase and rises at an angle with the staircase. The location of this lift would be from the 3rd to the 4th floor.

Jim Lee said he spoke with Charles Simmons, the Director of Public Buildings in Brookline, and was informed the elevator was now operational. The chair style lift was being installed only as a back-up through the end of the school year (June 2022). Comprehensive maintenance of the elevator will take place at the close of the school year.

A motion was proposed by Rob Heist to accept the variance to allow the installation of the chairlift instead of the platform lift. The motion was voted on by present members and approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM