

**Accessibility Working Group, 4th meeting,
Jan 18 after church, in the Fireplace Room.**

Agenda and Minutes

Present: Tina Ruth, Sam Clark, Dustin Rand, Paula Gills, Mary Alice Bisbee, Liz Benjamin, Pat Doherty. Amy Chorey.

(Decisions and Discussion in Italic)

Announcements:

1. Sam and Karin met with Mike Charron of VCIL at the church. A good meeting, confirming most of our thinking. A power door at side door was suggested strongly.
2. Sam and Paul Ohlson met with Nathan Royea, who does the power doors.
3. Budgets for Finance Committee due this week
4. Sam meets with ET Feb 2.
5. Leversets due in this week.

Quick check-in.

Today is the day we divide into two groups, building issues, and hidden and invisible disabilities.

Before we divide into two groups: Are we in agreement about preferred bathroom location? Do we need to work on this further?
We were in agreement that the coat closet

location in the southeast corner of the Vestry was our preferred location. The “plan B” location by the coffee area, was less private, more in the traffic lane, more costly to build in the end, and more disruptive of church life if remodelled. Sam will take this recommendation to the ET on February 2.

Divide into two groups.

Pat Doherty, Liz Benjamin, Paula Gills, and Mary Alice Bisbee went to meet separately to work on Hidden and Invisible Disabilities. They will report there results separately.

Building Subgroup

Reports:

1. Amy: report on Charette last week. *A charette or design brainstorm met last week, including folks from the accessibility, living lighter, and property committees, and others. The idea was to look at how gardening options, accessible parking, and other activities might be combined into an overall design. This will be an ongoing design project. But short term, there was some agreement that the accessibility committee's “short term parking plan” should be carried out.*

2: Amy: results on feedback received by email. *Not much to report here.*

3. Sam: VCIL, Mike O'Riordan, Costs for Plan A and B. *Sam spoke with Mike O'Riordan, our plumber, and determined that the bathroom location would work in terms of venting, costs, and permitting. Mike Charron of the Vermont Center for Independent Living met with Sam and Karin and walked through the church. He was basically in agreement with our ideas, but had some good suggestions for improvements. The principle change was to add an automatic door opener/closer to the side door. (We've received a price for this of \$2,500) His report is appended at the end of these minutes.*

Discussions:

1. Anything further on location? *Nothing here.*
2. The storage problem (handout of storage possibilities). *Dustin and Sam will work on this after the meeting.*
3. The issue of phases. How does this draft (summarized below) look? *This was approved as OK to take to the ET*

- Phase 1, 10/14 to 2/15: the report, lever-sets, chancel railing, design short term parking/entry improvements, design accessible bathroom
- Phase 2: 2/15 to 10/15: present and build bathroom and

short term parking/entry improvements. Begin work on Hidden and Invisible Disabilities

- Phase 3: 10/15 to 1/15: Plan Chancel lift. Begin work on the large goals.
- Phase 4: Install chancel lift if approved.

4. The issue of Decision-making process for accessibility projects (to discuss with ET).

Here is the current draft.

1. Proposals developed by small working teams, with necessary budgets and graphics. Proposals would explicitly address criteria, and the church mission.
2. Presentation to full Accessibility Committee, Property Committee, and other stakeholders.
3. Revisions based on feedback
4. Perhaps this is the moment when a proposal would be posted on the UCM website, mentioned in the church announcements, or in some cases announced to the congregation.
5. Presentation to ET
6. Further revisions as required
7. Formal review by outside architects, VCIL or others, but open to all. Perhaps this is combined with:
8. Presentation to Congregation: Some sort of well-planned presentation, with opportunities for questions and feedback, possible after church. The best way would vary with the project.

This was a lively and complicated discussion. One idea was to put step 7 earlier, between 2 and 3. Dustin will work on this and make a more graphical diagram of decisionmaking, based on his experiences at work.

Adjournment.

Dustin and Sam looked at replacement storage immediately after the meeting. This is to replace the storage lost if we build the bathroom. We need to find places for about 25 additional coat hooks. This seems like a simple problem. We looked at the long door cabinet by the Vestry entry, where the name tags are stored. These cabinets are about 12" deep and hold a miscellany of things. We think it would be fairly simple to rework this to make it about twice as deep, with a variety of simple shelving inside, including sliding wire baskets to hold small items, and large shelves to hold plastic tubs. Sketch to come.

Hidden and Invisible Disabilities Subgroup

Hi, everyone. There are no substantive minutes for our group, as we are just getting started. We have no "secretary" as yet. Fran Krushenik joined us and will be serving on the subcommittee. Here is what we did on Sunday at the meeting...

- everyone had the opportunity to talk about themselves and their interests in serving on this group
- we mutually decided on a "homework" assignment, to read the section in the ATF report about our area and submit an email about our individual ideas about where we want to go with the topic
- Paula volunteered to receive these emails and collate the ideas for a subsequent meeting--we agreed that two weeks would suffice, and then we will set another meeting time

- Paula agreed to "facilitate" the meetings but cannot formally chair any committee because she is a Board member--the larger committee will need to decide if it wants the SC to have an actual chair

Paula Gills