

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2025

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held at the Township building on March 12, 2025. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson (in person)
Abbey Yeatts, Vice Chairperson (in person)
Cynthia Lang, Secretary (via zoom)
Michele Williams, Member (via zoom)
Kierstyn Zolfo, Member (in person)

John Lewis, Supervisor Liaison (in person)

APPROVAL OF THE January 9, 2025 MINUTES

Ms. Yeatts moved, Ms. Zolfo seconded, and the January 9, 2025 were approved unanimously.

OPEN POSITIONS

Ms. Huchler stated that there is currently 1 alternate position open for the Disability Advisory Board (DAB). Ms. Huchler has been contacted by someone with interest in that position. If anyone is interested, please send a letter of interest with a current resume to Township Manager at admin@lmt.org. For further information about the DAB, please email dab@lmt.org or leave a message at the LMT main number at 267-274-1100. You can also reach out to any LMT Disability Advisory Board Member.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment this week.

UPDATE BROCHURE

Ms. Huchler proposed updating the 10-year-old brochure for the Board. The intention is to hand them out at community events. Ms. Zolfo has volunteered to do that. Ms. Huchler proposed that more recent accomplishments and future goals be included in the new version, for example, the Color Fun Run. Ms. Huchler volunteered to print the new brochures where she works. Ms. Zolfo suggested including a QR code. Ms. Yeatts suggested some grammar and editing was needed as well. Ms. Williams suggested more photos showing people with disabilities utilizing the opportunities provided for them by the Township. Other ideas were to include information about the Center for Independent Living, the inclusive playground, and the ADA update for Parks and Recreation. Ms. Huchler wishes to retain the logo. Committee members should review the brochure, send any suggestions to Ms. Zolfo and we will begin to update at the next meeting.

PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION DIVERSITY SPEAKS: INCLUSION & EQUALITY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE – WEBINAR

Ms. Yeatts attended the webinar. She said the focus was on workplace accommodations and preferred language. Leanne Firestone, who is neurodivergent herself, presented the webinar. She represents a community at New Cumberland. The webinar was geared to employers. On a related note, Ms. Yeatts shared that for older children and young adults, the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection on Makefield Road has a Disciples with Special Needs Group that meets regularly and sponsors social activities. Mr. Lewis mentioned that larger employers are not working to accommodate employees who are neurodivergent, including those who are just being diagnosed as adults.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Disability Fair

On April 10, 2025, 4:00-7:00 pm, a Disability Fair will be held at New Hope–Solebury High School, 180 W Bridge St., New Hope, PA. State Senator Steve Santarsiero and Representative Tim Brennan will be attending. This event will feature government agencies and support organizations currently providing services for adults and children with disabilities and their caregivers. Committee members will try to attend this important event. DAB members were encouraged to promote the event through social media.

Memorial Park -Secret Garden Ribbon Cutting

On April 17, 2025, there will be a Ribbon Cutting at 2:00 pm at Secret Garden Memorial Park for the completion of the new surface. All committee members encouraged to attend.

ADA TRANSITION PLAN UPDATES

The ADA Transition plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2021. Monica Tierney had asked the DAB to look through the plan and update as needed. Detailed updates to each section of the plan were sent to Monica Tierney along with some issues we noted while reviewing each of the parks. We may need to consider addressing some of the improvements/maintenance sooner while waiting for the larger, long-term projects to get started and funded.

Potential April Meeting to review revised ADA Transition Plan.

LMT PROJECT UPDATES

Several Parks and Rec projects were included in the ADA Transition Plan completed in 2021. The Disability Advisory Board (DAB) will review plans, work with Parks and Rec in any planning, suggestions and monitor as progress is made.

Parks and Rec Projects and items to follow up in 2025:

Projects

No updates

Pool Bathrooms

Community Center handicapped door and parking

Bike paths-Improvements were approved in the budget.
Kids Kingdom.
Veterans Park - funding to proceed is not currently available.
Macclesfield Study-draft needs to be presented to the BOS
Basketball courts - Memorial Park. Parking lot will be marked properly in the spring.

Marketing Plan has a change in direction. Will not just be a Parks and Rec plan but a township wide plan.

BUILDING PLAN REVIEW

No new plans at this time.

Prickett Plan Updates -DAB will continue to review plans as they come in for other retail establishments

OLD BUSINESS

Suggested crosswalk stripping in McCaffrey's parking lot where new Trinity Health will be located. Jim Majewski was made aware of our recommendation and he will be following up.

Abbey Yeatts asked if the township could consider installing changing tables in ADA compliant bathrooms that could accommodate larger children. If and when bathrooms are updated or new plan designs created, can we incorporate changing tables that might accommodate older and larger children. Suggestion was passed along to Parks and Rec director and they were receptive to this idea.

NEW BUSINESS

Closed captioning and transcription of DAB meetings was discussed. Was determined that the posting of meetings includes closed captioning.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting May 14, 2025 at the Township Building meeting room. April and July 2025 meetings cancelled. Will hold a June 11, 2025, if necessary.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Zolfo moved and Ms. Williams seconded to adjourn, approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia Lang
Secretary, Disability Advisory Board