

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 7, 2022**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held via zoom on March 7, 2022. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson  
Michele Williams, Vice Chairperson  
Lynne Catarro, Secretary  
Al Catarro, Member  
Cynthia Lang, Member

Dr. Fred Weiss, Supervisor Liaison

**APPROVAL OF THE January 17, 2022 MINUTES**

Ms. Catarro moved, Ms. Williams seconded, and the January 17, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved.

**NEW MEMBER WELCOME**

Cynthia Lang stated she is a hemiplegic from a stroke. Interested in recreation activities for disabled people. Looking forward to making some contributions.

**PARKS AND RECREATION INFO**

Lisa did speak to Monica Tierney, Director, Parks and Recreation department. She was very excited to let us know of recent activities.

- Yoga that can be enjoyed by many people of all abilities.
- If any resident has a suggestion for an activity or program, please reach out to them to discuss. They are eager for new ideas and are willing to hear whatever suggestions residents have.
- Ways to include children with a disability in future programs. What if a child with disability wants to join one of our programs? Our staff would not to have ability to make accommodations like a schools would have.

Dr. Catarro shared experience of taking children to a playground which was not accessible, as well as, discussed all students being involved and included all in high school musical. Distinguish was made between resources available for summer camp and school district.

Question: Are there any surrounding communities that include children with disability?

Lisa Huchler stated she had met with a member of the Parks and Rec Board and had given them information on various programs for children with disabilities. Ms Huchler will gather the information and forward to Ms Cattaro to create a database of what is available in surrounding communities. Ex: Miracle League in Falls Township, programs within 10 miles of LMT

Ms. Williams suggested contacting Advocacy Groups to collaborate with that can give us their advice for inclusive camp activities.

Ms. Catarro mentioned Epilepsy Foundation and the educational benefits to assisting instructors.

Ms. Huchler wanted to let the committee know about the LMT inclusive playground at Memorial Park and the research and development that went into this project. Suggested that all new committee members visit the playground to get an idea of what is already available at some of our Parks in LMT.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

All community events can be found under LMT Parks and Recreation webpage and Facebook page.

A few reminders mentioned by Ms. Huchler were:

Flyers game –Sunday, March 13, 2022 7:00 pm See link below:

<https://offer.fevo.com/philadelphia-flyers-vs-montreal-canadiens-9wwcwgu-c05660c?fevoUri=philadelphia-flyers-vs-montreal-canadiens-9wwcwgu-c05660c%2F>. This event will be run through Parks and Recreation. Bus may be provided. Portion of the ticket sales will be allocated to ADA Transition Plan.

5 K Anyway run/walk will occur in August 6, 2022. A portion of the funds raised will be allocated to the ADA Transition Plan.

Community Day August 27, 2022- Great opportunity for DAB to have a table set up with brochures and resources for community members. We have had a table for the last few years.

Roll and Stroll- Ms. Huchler described as something we did at Memorial Park. There is a 1K loop and we invited vendors to participate. We postponed event due to COVID. There is a lot going on with Parks and Rec so might be a challenge to get necessary resources to assist with event.

Ms. Huchler said much of the funds raised from these events are to support some of the smaller projects the LMT ADA Transition Plan will be addressing. Ex. Putting in water foundations, moving trash cans. Bring an awareness that LMT has an ADA Transition Plan. We are working towards goals.

Dr. Catarro suggested searching for available grants. Ms. Huchler will forward a copy of the ADA Transition Plan to all members for their review. Ms. Williams would like to think outside the box for grants.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS INFORMATION

Discussed what information we would like to hand out at some of the community events

- Information regarding handicapped parking
- Ms. Catarro (see attachment) and Ms. Huchler (will provide at a later time) have created a handout.
- We also give out our brochure to the residents that stop by our table.

## HANDICAPPED ACCESS/PARKING

Polling places

Ms. Lang mentioned that people with disabilities are waiting in line with nondisabled. Could poll workers bring people with disabilities to the front of the line or at least be able to wait inside away from the elements. Ms. Williams will look into the guidelines on election polling places. Ms. Lang mentioned her stroke and state police retrieving her license. Did not have an ID to vote. Must go to DMV and pay for ID. Will look into ways that people that are unable to drive or get to the DMV to obtain State issued ID via mail. Will place information on resource page once confirmed.

Update needed on signage and striping on Macclesfield Field and Memorial Park. Ms. Huchler will keep on top of this.

### **SENSORY KITS**

Ms. Huchler discussed reading that the Hatboro-Horsham Fire department have been putting together Sensory Kits to be used when first responders encounter a child with special needs. They are assembled in small drawstring gym bags which don't look like much on the outside, however, what's packed inside can make a big difference for people with autism or other sensory disorders. Inside the bags are tools to help calm a person. They include noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses and fidget spinners, as well as items used to communicate, including a whiteboard and laminated paper letters. Those who are nonverbal can write on the whiteboard, or can use the laminate to spell out what they are trying to say. Is this something we should pursue with our First Responders? Ms. Huchler will look into this by contacting the fire department.

### **WEBPAGE**

Ms. Catarro will continue to make the DAB webpage more valuable by including important info about polling guidance, camp information, etc. Gear towards making it easier for residents to find information about services available. Take some outdated info down and start fresh. Go over updates (maybe make one change at a time). Send to Katie at the township to update. Gear more to what our community may want to know  
No emails received. Our email is DAB@lmt.org

### **BUILDING PLAN REVIEW**

Ms. Williams said they there are no new plans to review at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Dr. Catarro mentioned trying to get more informational out to the public and raising awareness about Disability issues in the township. Ms. Huchler has previously attended the Board of Supervisors meetings to provide information about our committee.
- Ms. Williams – Giant renovations occurring. Does the township receive plans if some of the older buildings get renovated and updated? Are we aware of these in advance? Ms. Huchler stated normally permits may have to be issued. Ms. Huchler will look into.
- Ms. Lang concerned about the accessibility to Yardley Boat Launch Ramp. Because of the strong current and the river levels, they cannot install any accessibility apparatus. Ms. Lang will look into Bristol Borough Boat Ramp.

### **GOALS**

Update Website

Attend Community Events

Continue to monitor building plans such as Prickett Preserve and other new projects

ADA Transition Plan Fundraising ideas

Look into possible grants available

### **MEETING SCHEDULE**

TBD – looking at May 16, 2022

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Dr. Catarro, approved unanimously by all board members.

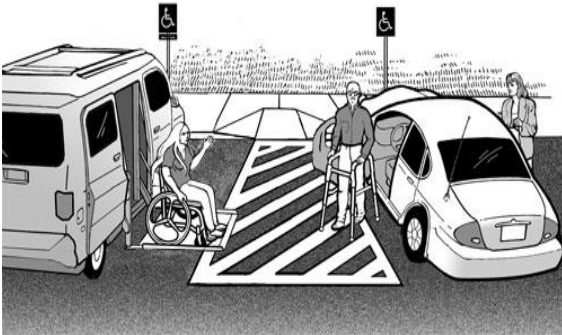
Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Catarro

<https://www.lmt.org/government/boards-and-commissions/zoning-hearing-board> Secretary, Disability Advisory Board

# Proper Use of Accessible Handicap Parking Spots



**What is the purpose of painted diagonal lines next to handicap parking spaces?**

The parking stripes next to handicap parking spots, also known as the “crosshatch” area, are some of the most critical aspects of handicapped parking spots. This extra area allows for wheelchair users to deploy the ramp on their van, or get in and out of their vehicle if they are transferring. Parking your car over part of the lines inhibits certain people from getting out of their vehicles.

**What are the colors of the diagonal painted lines next to handicap parking spaces?**



Blue and white are the most common colors: blue for the background and white for the handicap-accessible symbol. However, red, yellow and green may also be used.



The diagonal lines next to handicapped parking spaces are not neutral zones, nor are they a parking space.

They are a loading zone to allow people who use wheelchairs to have the space to get out of their vehicles.

**Can a handicapped person park on the diagonal line in handicap parking spot?**

No person is supposed to park on the diagonal lines. They’re there for a reason. They’re there because people who need those spots may need that extra space to get in and out of their car or to get out any equipment they may need to remove and reload into their car. If you park in those lined spots next to them you may be keeping someone from accessing their vehicle.

One person’s need for the use of a handicapped spot doesn’t outdo another’s. Legally it makes no sense to allow something that could potentially block someone from accessing their vehicle.

