

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, August 1, 2017 – 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 8/2/17
TIME: 1:00pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Members Present: W. Kurt Miller, Al Bruno, Annmarie Drugonis, Karen Stanek, Stephan Behuniak and Nicole Klarides-Ditria.

Members Absent: Len Greene, Jr.

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; and the SHS Softball Team and coaches.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:10 PM.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to go out of order to Item #7: Discussion and take possible action regarding issuing of citations to Seymour High School Softball Team.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #7: Discussion and take possible action regarding issuing of citations to Seymour High School Softball Team.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria congratulated the team and the coaches for a great achievement. She congratulated them on a 26-2 record and a collective team GPA of 90.5.

Nicole read the citation and handed them out to each of the softball players.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

None.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from July 18, 2017 regular meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from July 18, 2017 regular meeting.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Karen will be emailing her corrections to Lianna and/or Rory.

ITEM #5: First Selectman's Report.

- The State budget continues to be unresolved. I received no new information as to when the vote will take place. The spending freeze will remain in place for the next few weeks until we get a better grasp of the situation. I will hold off voting on the Capital Plan.
- While still very early in the process, Fiscal Year 2017 is looking to have ended in a positive fashion. The expenditures are trending below budget and revenue is trending above budget.

We have a planned surplus of \$300,000 built into the budget. I expect that number to be substantially higher. I will not have a better understanding until September.

- For the third year in a row, Seymour has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association. This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This represents a significant accomplishment by the government. We received this award in the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.

ITEM #6: Discussion and take possible action regarding issuing of citations to Seymour High School Cheerleading Team.

Motion to table Item #6.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #8: Discussion and take possible action regarding Charter Revision Committee.

Kurt read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2017, the Board of Selectmen acting pursuant to Section 7-190 of the Connecticut General Statutes acted by resolution to create a nine (9) member Seymour Charter Revision Commission; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-190 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Board of Selectmen has decided to act further and to appoint the nine (9) members of the Seymour Charter Revision Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The following individuals are appointed to serve as members of the Seymour Charter Revision Commission:

1. William Sawicki (D);
2. Jen Magri (R);
3. Pat Lombardi (R);
4. Colleen Fries (D);
5. Saudra Gesek (D);
6. Ed Hendricks (R);
7. Robert Findley (R);
8. Rob Van Egghen (D);
9. Rhonda Geffert (R).

Motion to accept the resolution as presented.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Saudra Gesek's and Rob Van Eggen's name will be corrected. *(The resolution had their names listed as Sawndra Gesek and Rob Van Eggheen).*

ITEM #9: Discussion and take possible action regarding purchasing of streetlights from Eversource.

Kurt read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seymour (the "Town") has studied upgrading municipal light sources throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, the Town has conducted a Request for Proposal process in connection with the acquisition of municipal street lighting facilities including, but not limited to, luminaires, lamps, ballasts, photocells, brackets,

conductors, dedicated poles, foundations, manholes and such other equipment not part of the distribution system, consisting of 75 poles and 1,134 fixtures; and

WHEREAS, the Town has selected the Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to provide and install such equipment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

W. Kurt Miller, the First Selectman of Seymour is hereby authorized to enter into a certain Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Connecticut Light and Power company d/b/a Eversource Energy and to execute such further documents as are necessary to effectuate this transaction.

Motion to approve the resolution as presented.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Al Bruno
Vote: 6-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Al Bruno – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes Karen Stanek – Yes Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #10: Appointments

Motion to reappoint Tom Schutte to EMSOC for a term of two (2) years expiring on August 6, 2019.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Al Bruno
Vote: 6-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Al Bruno – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes Karen Stanek – Yes Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Motion to reappoint Joe LaRovera to the Recreation Commission for a term of two (2) years expiring on August 3, 2019.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 6-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Al Bruno – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes Karen Stanek – Yes Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #11: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report as presented.

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Annmarie Drugonis
Vote: 6-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Al Bruno – Yes
Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes Karen Stanek – Yes Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #12: Transfers.

Motion to approve Control # 18: (for W. Kurt Miller, First Selectman in the amount of \$50,000.00) as presented.

FROM: \$8,276.51 - Other contingency
 \$4,416.68 – Contingency Community services
 \$13,797.60 – Tax refunds
 \$18,000.00 – Contingency recycling
 \$5,509.21 – Purchase service

TO: OPEB Trust

Motion: Nicole Klarides-Ditria Second: Al Bruno
Vote: 6-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain
W. Kurt Miller – Yes Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Al Bruno – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

ITEM #13: Correspondence.

- Public comment/correspondence from resident Joseph Luciano with regard to a new crosswalk at 7 Wakeley Street.
- Second public comment/correspondence from resident Joseph Luciano proposing a 'to do' list to accommodate the growing population of senior/disabled living in downtown Seymour. Both comments/correspondence will be entered as public comment and will be attached to the minutes.
- Copy of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

ITEM #14: Public Comment.

None.

ITEM #15: Selectmen's Public Comment.

Karen Stanek commended the Seymour High School softball team.

Al Bruno commented on the well done ceremony for the softball team tonight. It was a much deserved acknowledgement.

Anmarie Drugonis congratulated the Seymour High School softball team.

ITEM #16: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Nicole Klarides-Ditria – Yes

Second: Karen Stanek

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Submitted by,



Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman

**ADVISORY,
PUBLIC COMMENT, & PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

Page 1 of 4

July 23, 2017

To: Town of Seymour, Office of the First Selectman

Cc: Town Clerk; ADA Compliance Officer

From: Joseph A. Luciano *Disability Rights Action Group of Connecticut*
DRAGconnecticut@yahoo.com 33 DeForest street, Seymour CT 06483-2894 203/463-8323

This is Public Comment & Public Correspondence for the next BOS meeting!

SUBJECT: New crosswalk at 7 Wakeley Street a hazard

This document is "multi-purpose"—serving as PUBLIC COMMENT and CORRESPONDENCE, as well as an "Advisory." This is submitted to a BOS meeting. It is expected to be entered in meeting minutes or embedded. Copy has been sent to the Town Clerk to be recorded as an official record of communication from the public to ensure the Town of Seymour has been notified. This is also sent to Seymour's liability insurance carrier(s).

The new crosswalk at 7 Wakeley Street, Seymour, is a hazard because marked parking spaces have been provided on either side.

The dangers of crossing between parked vehicles are well-established common knowledge. Do we not teach our children to?

- cross at corners,
- never cross in the middle of the block,
- never cross between parked vehicles.

► <https://youtu.be/bmkR34-kPoY>

(Video shows pedestrian getting hit crossing between parked vehicles.)

► Here's advice about Crossing between parked cars from an international educational organization for teachers, pupils and parents.

<http://think.direct.gov.uk/education/early-years-and-primary/parents/5-to-7s/teaching-your-child-to-cross-the-road-safely/>

Try not to cross between parked vehicles.

Choose a place where there is a space between two cars and make sure that it is easy to get to the pavement on the other side of the road.

Make sure neither car is about to move off - look for drivers in the cars, lights and listen for engines.

Don't cross near large vehicles. You could be standing in a blind spot, where the driver cannot see you.

Walk to the outside edge of the cars and stop. Here you can be seen by drivers and you can look all around for traffic.

Use the Green Cross Code. When the road is clear, cross, still looking and listening as you go.

► Baton Rouge Dept. Public Works

<http://brgov.com/dept/dpw/traffic/pedestrian.htm>

Don't cross at mid-block locations because "jaywalking" is dangerous and in some cases against the law.

¹ Tuesday August 1st, according to the online BOS meeting schedule

**ADVISORY,
PUBLIC COMMENT, & PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

Page 2 of 4

Be advised I will inform any survivor of a pedestrian-vehicle accident at this crosswalk that the Town of Seymour has been notified about the hazards of this crosswalk arising from its location between marked parking spaces.

Much worse, signage is absent warning motorists of Connecticut law to “Stop For Pedestrians *Within* Crosswalk.” (Vehicles have never stopped for me while I am within this crosswalk in my wheelchair. They show no mercy.)

On following pages a photo shows the safe location for a crosswalk.² A panoramic photo shows “line-of-sight” is adequate were a crosswalk to be provided from the corner opposite the EMT training center at the entrance/exit of the Fishway parking lot to the sidewalk adjoining the EMT training center.

Recommendation

1. Remove existing crosswalk that was provided for 7 Wakeley Street. Demolish the curbcuts there.
2. Provide a crosswalk opposite EMT training center. SEE following photos.
3. Only one curbcut will need to be constructed: A curbcut already exists at the corner of the entrance/exit to the Fishway.
4. In the middle of the crosswalk, between the two lanes of traffic, provide a fixed stanchion supporting a sign warning motorists to “stop for pedestrians within the crosswalk”—a state law.

► Be sure to view the following videos on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/repTpJXyU-A>
<https://youtu.be/mzRCAvXJhRg>
<https://youtu.be/hIJGMUBxM8I>
<https://youtu.be/2BX2xYnVPf8>

Joe Luciano

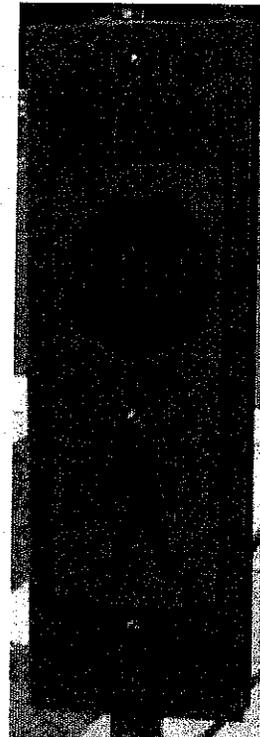
Joseph A. Luciano, 33 DeForest Street A24, Seymour CT 06483-2894
Home 203/463-8323

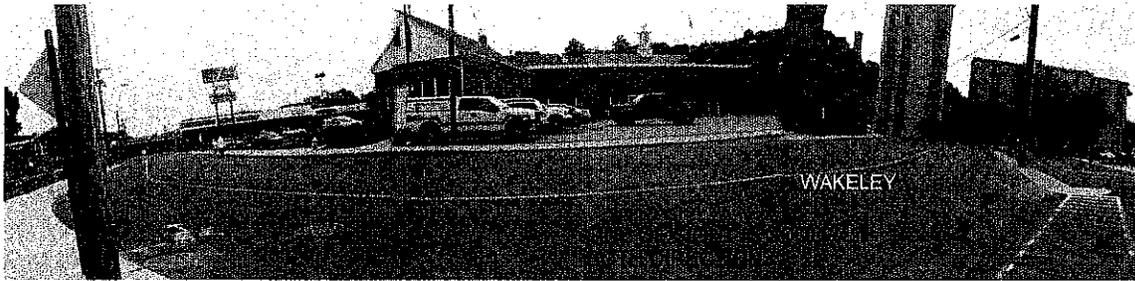
Tenacious Advocate for Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Universal Design,

& Livable Communities through Full ADA compliance & Enforcement

FOUNDER: **Disability Rights Action Group of Connecticut** DRAGconnecticut@yahoo.com
<http://www.nhregister.com/opinion/20140928/editorial-still-a-tough-road-for-americans-with-disabilities>
<http://www.rep-am.com/news/local/931134.txt>
<http://www.nhregister.com/opinion/20170218/editorial-city-officials-must-enforce-its-snow-removal-ordinance>

² which I advised the Town of Seymour multiple times last year. Indeed, I requested a meeting with Seymour police chief Metzler last summer, but he was unable to meet with me on the street though I offered alternate days/times. Thus, I was unable to demonstrate that the corner opposite the EMT training center was a safe place for a crosswalk because “line-of-sight” is adequate.





Line-of-sight is excellent here; and there are no parked vehicles on either side of the “peoples’ crosswalk.”

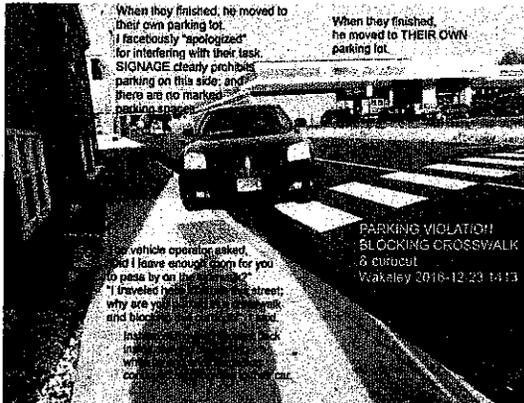


Most people cross here anyway.



What!
A crosswalk between parked cars!
2017-06-28

Incredible. P&Z's approval of 38 Columbus Street senior/handicap apartments has increased the senior/handicapped housing to 38 from 12 (not counting handicapped persons living at Fallview Apts and elsewhere downtown). More than ever, the Town of Seymour should be ensuring safety for the elder/handicapped who have come here to live. The situation shown in this photo is a sad commentary on respect for persons with disabilities. Persons using wheelchairs cannot be seen by oncoming traffic— and we cannot see oncoming traffic because we are low, not high enough to see or be seen. Construction of this crosswalk between parking spaces recklessly endangers seniors and persons with disabilities. *Were these parking spaces provided to accommodate 7 Wakeley Street (which, by the way, already has a parking lot)?*



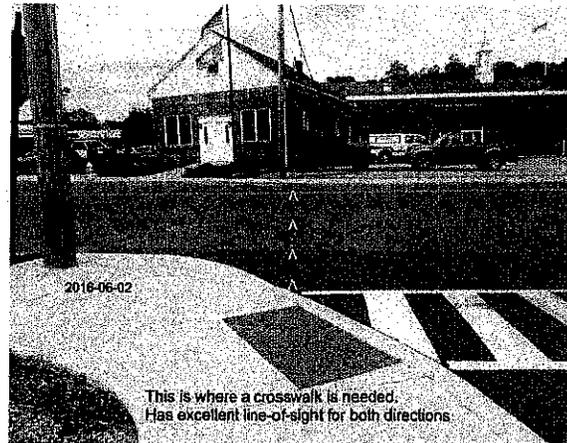
When they finished, he moved to their own parking lot. I facetiously "apologized" for interfering with their task. SIGNAGE clearly prohibits parking on this side, and there are no marked parking spaces.

When they finished, he moved to THEIR OWN parking lot.

PARKING VIOLATION! BLOCKING CROSSWALK & CURB CUT. Wakeley 2016-12-23 14:13

vehicle operator asked, "did I leave space for you to pass by on the street?" "I traveled back down the street; why are you blocking the street and blocking the crosswalk?"

2016-06-02



This is where a crosswalk is needed. Has excellent line-of-sight for both directions.

July 31, 2017

To: Town of Seymour, Office of the First Selectman

Cc: Town Clerk; ADA Compliance Officer;
Advisory Committee for Livable Communities

From: Joseph A. Luciano *Disability Rights Action Group of Connecticut*
DRAGconnecticut@yahoo.com 33 DeForest street, Seymour CT 06483-2894 203/463-8323

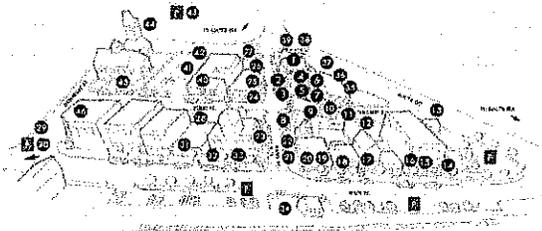
This is Public Comment & Public Correspondence for the next BOS meeting

SUBJECT: Proposing a “to-do” LIST to accommodate growing population of senior/disabled living downtown Seymour

This document is “MULTI-PURPOSE”—serving as PUBLIC COMMENT and CORRESPONDENCE, as well as an “Advisory.” This is submitted to a BOS meeting. It is expected to be entered in meeting minutes or embedded. Copy has been sent to the Town Clerk to be recorded as an official record of communication from the public to ensure the Town of Seymour has been notified.

- **ACCESS** in Downtown Seymour is what it is today because of poor planning.
- **DECISIONS** not based on ADA accessibility standards **DISCRIMINATE** against persons **with disabilities**.

TOWN HALL APPROVED 38 Columbus without adequate actions to accommodate *mobility and access needs* of the seniors and persons with disabilities who are coming here to visit and/or live—not only at 38 Columbus² but also in other available downtown housing including Fallview Apts. Town hall failed to prepare the community for the increased number of senior/disabled persons. Senior/disabled people have senior/disabled friends who will come to visit, explore downtown and the “Fishway” Bypass Channel at Tingue Dam, and the “shops at Seymour.”³



field guide
to shops, restaurants,
& downtown living.

seymour
connecticut 06483.

¹ Tuesday August 1st, according to the online BOS meeting schedule

² 26 apartments at 38 Columbus + 12 apartments at 16 Bank Street = 38 senior/handicapped persons living on Columbus Street.

³ <https://16bankstreet.com/historic-downtown-seymour/>

“The 16 Bank Street Building is located on the corner of Bank and Columbus Street in the heart of the SEYMOUR HISTORIC SHOPPING DISTRICT. Enjoy small town living with the convenience of shops and restaurants WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE and visit our retail merchants⁴ offering locally sourced organic food, live music,⁵ dining, freshly prepared baked goods and specialty teas.”⁶

Inappropriate (brick walk) access routes are a hardship for persons using walkers. “Harry”⁷ (a new resident of 38 Columbus) started out last week on a mild summer day to have lunch at Dragon Kitchen at First Street Plaza. *He gave up halfway there* because of difficulty using his walker on brick sidewalks along Columbus and First Streets. He felt he had insufficient strength to continue, so he turned around to go home—except that he chose to *travel in the street* for its smooth surface. Since town hall officials may have no direct experience using walkers, they cannot understand mobility barriers for walkers.

Town hall, which may have no direct experience using wheelchairs, scooters, or powerchairs, also cannot understand that TRAVELING ACROSS A SLOPE has a real risk of tipping over. Where are the slopes that are likely to be traveled across? Answer: one is the slope of the new curbcut recently constructed at the Columbus Street entrance to 16 Bank Street senior/disabled housing.

Another is the tilted sidewalk along First Street.

SEE video https://www.facebook.com/SEImperialPieromaniJes/videos/160001047636306/1653530274691878/?type=2&theater¬if_t=video_processed¬if_id=1501497719263804

38 COLUMBUS IS HERE TO STAY! Along with the beautifully restored and re-purposed 16 Bank Street⁸ (Belkin 1917 building), 38 Columbus is the “jewel of historic downtown Seymour. Its design acknowledges architectural details of other downtown structures and coordinates well with its neighbors. Now that it’s here, **more than ever**, town hall must accelerate its efforts (if any) to make access routes (sidewalks) ADA compliant. Compliance will bring safety.

Sadly, downtown Seymour today is still an Unlivable Community, unready for senior independent living. Unready for Aging in Place. Unready for shoppers and visitors with disabilities. Previous and present town administrations have piddled away 9,867 days⁹ of opportunities to implement ADA 1990. Had they done so, downtown Seymour would have been a Livable Community before 16 Bank and 38 Columbus were built.

⁴ Most are inaccessible

⁵ The “local source” of organic food & live music (the All-American Valley General Store) closed months ago.

⁶ <https://16bankstreet.com/historic-downtown-seymour/>

⁷ (not his real name)

⁸ for senior/handicapped housing and retail businesses

⁹ or “overnights”

Here are a few examples of downtown's unlivability.

See albums too. Only a few photos are embedded here.

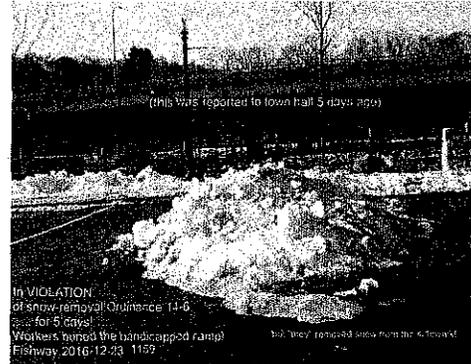
1. "They"¹⁰ allow or condone property owners (and town hall itself) to flout the town's clearly written "snow removal" ordinance.¹¹ Result: only able-bodied people can get around downtown while seniors and persons with disabilities are marooned at home for days, denied access to places for groceries, pharmacy, banking, and more. **ADVISORY:** Enforce your own ordinance! Fine offenders. You're teaching them that they can get away with it; seniors and 8disabled are paying the price of your dereliction of duty.
2. **Seymour police flout** Ordinance 1-9, which clearly states that police "shall" fine flouters of the snow ordinance (16-4) up to \$100 a day. This, too, is dereliction of duty.
3. "They" allow **construction of tilted sidewalks**. Seniors who use walkers, scooters, wheelchairs, and other common mobility devices are fearful of falling or tipping over. It happened at the Columbus Street entrance to 16 Bank Street senior/disabled housing. An elder's scooter tipped over; she suffered injury—physically and emotionally. Now Seymour will face a lawsuit.
4. **Town Hall needs to make up its mind** about whether to help downtown become an antiques center or a Livable Community for senior/disabled housing and Aging in Place. Reality: most shops downtown are inaccessible and none provide needs of daily living (groceries, for example). What's the point of replacing terrible sidewalks with faux (fake) brick sidewalks? Yes, they are easier to travel on for mobility devices. But shops are inaccessible; senior disabled folks can only look at merchandise displayed in windows. They can't get in. **ADVISORY:** help shops afford portable ramps for wheelchair access (\$139.99)
5. **Seymour PD wanted to get closer** to the community. So "they" held a social event, calling it "coffee with a cop." Only abled-bodied citizens could attend! They held it at *Tea with Tracy*, an elegant yet inaccessible theme restaurant on Bank Street. A lovely, sophisticated venue, the prettiest in downtown. But inaccessible. Absurd. **ADVISORY:** hold the next coffee with a cop at accessible places (Keystone Auction Gallery, the Strand lobby, or at Seymour Senior Center).
6. "They" **did little to nothing to help the All-American Valley General Store** survive during construction of 38 Columbus. It's gone! So are farm-fresh fruits, organic vegetables, artisan baked goods, milk, eggs, Connecticut-made sodas, meats, deli foods, live music Wednesday nights, fellowship, arts & culture, "Strand



¹⁰ The first selectman, heads of departments (including police, public works, ADA coordinator, development, planning, P&Z,)

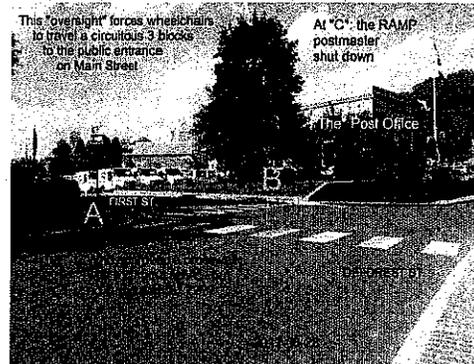
¹¹ Section 14-6

- Ole Opry,” Halloween & Christmas parties open to the community, Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA), and much more. 38 Columbus would have had all these—next door.
7. **Handrails** have appeared on some “historic” stone steps—but only on one side! Handrails are *required on both sides* of stairways, according to ADA architectural standards.
 8. The **Strand Theater**, the only theater downtown, still has a ramp for “disabled access” that’s not compliant with ADA standards! It’s dangerous. I don’t go there anymore; when someone opens the door, I have to back up. Hand and guard rails are absent. I could back up right off the ramp! **ADVISORY:** At the very least, provide guard/hand rails.
 9. Employees and supervisors of **Public Works** seem uninformed about purposes of existing ADA constructions. After they cleared a Fishway sidewalk of snow, they dumped it on top of the ramp constructed to access the sidewalk. **ADVISORY:** Provide training to all town employees including officials on accessibility rights and standards.
 10. “They” do little to nothing to pressure the state to **construct an access route** between **Tony’s Diner** and Hwy. 67. Without an access route, seniors using mobility devices are *forced to travel between parked cars and fast-moving traffic*.
 11. With supervision of their shop teachers, Seymour high school students built **5 picnic tables** and donated them to Seymour. That was a very noble gesture of community service. But One table was located in the **Town Hall** parking lot; two others were placed in the **Seymour Senior Center** picnic grove. All tables were inaccessible! (ADA requires accessible picnic tables.) Even the senior center picnic grove is inaccessible: The barrier is curbing. What were “they” thinking? After my notices to Town Hall, they “solved” this problem. They removed the tables. Absurd.
 12. For 26 years **Town Hall** did little to nothing to help **Tony’s Diner** obtain loans or grants to afford costs of providing **accessibility**. Our state has 3 grants: MSIF, STEAP, and EXP. These are intended to make municipalities pretty—not accessible.
 13. Nobody (state and local) cares about constructing a **sidewalk** around **Tony’s Diner**. “They are ignoring this issue. Today, the new residents of 38 Columbus would have to push walkers or propel wheelchairs over broken pavement and rubble to get to **Tony’s Diner**. By the way, they’d have a hard time trying to get into Tony’s; there’s only one handrail on the steps. Tony’s is next door to 38 Columbus. Fine classic diner food is served there. And it’s a great place for fellowship.
 14. The **top Town Hall official** was quoted in the press as saying, “Luciano just ‘likes to complain.’ He doesn’t understand that we can’t comply with ADA access mandates *overnight*.” He is absolutely correct: no town can comply overnight. But! “They” have piddled away 9,867 overnights of opportunities to comply. (The ADA became a law of the land July 26, 1990!)
 15. The **top Town Hall official** refuses to respond to any of my advisories, claiming he doesn’t want to “dignify” my advice. OMG. How dare I advocate for compliance with federal—and local¹²—laws!
 16. “They” provided a “disabled entrance to Town Hall, but not an automatic electrically operated door opener. After I advised them of their oversight to comply with USDOJ’s **Project Civic Access**, they provided it. But they **forget to turn the electricity on!** I have had to cellphone them when I get to the door, asking that they switch the power on. Absurd.



¹² Ordinances 14-6, 1-9

17. Every government and privately owned building (including our **Town Hall**) must display signage that indicates the location of the disabled entrance. First, “they” provided one disabled parking space far away from Town Hall’s disabled entrance, i.e., at the end of the block. Then “they” posted a tiny sign at the inaccessible, able-bodied public entrance. Until a larger sign was posted, you can’t see the sign indicating the location of the disabled entrance—until you climb the steps! Absurd.
18. When I visited (by appointment) **Town Hall** to review construction plans for new sidewalks, I was led to an *inaccessible* desk. There was room only if I worked *sideways* to the desk. I left. Can you work at a desk sideways to it? **ADVISORY:** town hall employees need training. Sensitivity training; ADA access standards training. Maybe even common sense and respect.
19. “They” allow construction of **curb ramps** (curbcuts) *without level top landings*. The slope runs completely across the sidewalk. Result: Wheelchairs and other mobility devices suddenly ride across a 12-degree slope. Wheelchairs can tip over on a 6-degree slope (1:10, or 10.5% slope). Absurd. **ADVISORY:** Demolish and replace in compliance with standards. At ADA.gov plans and measured drawings are free.
20. “They” provided a **crosswalk** on Wakeley that’s *between parked cars*. Oncoming vehicles cannot see us; we are in wheelchairs or scooters. We are low, hidden by parked cars. Absurd.
21. Old broken sidewalks with steep “**roller coaster**” slopes at driveways are replaced with faux brickwalks exactly as before—with steep “roller coaster” slopes,
22. A **crosswalk** is provided at First and DeForest. But *only one curbcut is provided*. Result: Wheelchairs cannot access the sidewalk leading to the post office. Result: Wheelchair postal customers must ride all around the block to get to the front of the **post office**. So, instead of being just a half-block away, they are forced to ride three long blocks! **ADVISORY:** build a curbcut on the other side of the street!
23. Access to the “**Accessible Bypass Walkway**” at the **Fishway** is often blocked or obstructed by vehicles encroaching the sidewalk. Even Seymour-owned vehicles are offenders.
24. Vehicles **park with impunity on sidewalks** in other areas (even police cars)
25. “They” allow shopkeepers’ vehicles to **obstruct sidewalks**
26. Vehicles park with impunity in **fire zones** (to use the ATM; or to pickup laundry, Chinese takeout)
27. **Shopkeepers obstruct sidewalks** with merchandise or décor.
28. **Shopkeepers** are allowed to hang **sales flags** lower than 80 inches off the sidewalk pavement. On windy days these flags whip faces of persons in wheelchairs passing by.
29. **Shopkeepers obstruct access routes** adjoining their shops with merchandise, forcing wheelchairs to ride in the gutter of Highway 67.
30. **Post office closes ramp**, refuses to provide signage explaining how to get postal services on the sidewalk in front
31. A shop with double entrance doors opens only one (that’s too narrow for wheelchairs, scooters.) And blocks the closed door with



- merchandise. And then posts sign saying, "Welcome,"
32. **Shops with thresholds having vertical rises** refuse to remedy the barrier with a cheap wedge/ramp.
 33. The **only theater in town** has yet to make its "ramp" compliant with ADA safety standards.
 34. The **only diner downtown** puts a **picnic table in front** where the **access route to it is broken** blacktop impassable to wheelchairs, difficult for walkers. And the table is not ADA wheelchair accessible.

The above is not a complete list or assessment. New barriers sometimes appear daily.

MORE THAN EVER BEFORE—now that 38 Columbus is here, and now that there are more senior/disabled downtown—town hall must work fast to provide compliant, safe access routes.

Joe Luciano

Joseph A. Luciano, 33 DeForest Street A24, Seymour CT 06483-2894
Home 203/463-8323

*Tenacious Advocate for Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Universal Design,
& Livable Communities through Full ADA compliance & Enforcement*

FOUNDER: **Disability Rights Action Group of Connecticut** DRAGconnecticut@yahoo.com

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