

Report on visit to Barrytown Polling Site: Red Hook D5

Jonathan Becker
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I visited the polling site today together with Randy Clum, a member of Bard's Building and Grounds who implements accessibility mandates under the ADA. It is clear that access to St. John's Barrytown violates the American with Disabilities Act, and thus US and Federal Voting law, in several ways. Here I am referring to questions posed in the US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division ADA Checklist for Polling Places: <https://www.ada.gov/votingchecklist.pdf>

First, there are NO marked handicap accessible parking and the accessibility ramp is on a slope so people cannot be dropped off there. In response the USDOJ checklist, it fails in the following areas:

- **A1: Is there at least one designated van accessible space with signage with the International Symbol of Accessibility and designated "van accessible"?** (§§208.2, 208.2.4, 502.6) No.
- **A4: Are designated accessible parking spaces and the access aisles serving them on a level surface, with slopes not exceeding 1:48 in all directions? (Note: Curb ramps may not be part of an access aisle since they include slopes greater than 1:48.)** (§502.4) No: even if a van dropped off someone near the accessible ramp, that ramp is located on a slope.

Second, the ramp violates the law in several ways. Under Section G of the checklist, page 23, we see:

- **G1: Is the running slope of the ramp no greater than 1:12?** (§405.2). No. The slope not only does not meet the recommended standard of 1:20, it does not meet the standard of 1:12, coming in at 1:7.5 (13 inches of rise per 8 feet of ramp).
- **G4 Is the ramp, measured between handrails, at least 36" wide?** (§405.5) No. There is a handrail on only one side of the ramp. There are handrails on stairs leading to the other side of the ramp (see G8 and G9 below) and on those the space is 28.4", considerably less than the prescribed 36".
- **G5: Does the ramp have a level landing that is at least 60" long, at the top and bottom of each ramp section?** (§405.7) No. The landing area at the bottom is not level and the landing area is less than 60 inches long. Note that both of the landing areas (at the bottom of the ramp and the top of the ramp) are also less than 25 square feet as prescribed by the ADA.
- **G8 If the rise of the ramp is greater than 6", are handrails provided that are between 34" and 38" above the ramp surface?** (§§405.8, 505.4) No. There are rails on only one side of the ramp (though there are stairs with rails: see below and the handrails on the stairs are 28.4" apart and not 36" apart as noted in G4).
- **G9: If the rise of the ramp is greater than 6" and the ramp or landing has a vertical drop-off on either side of the ramp, is edge protection provided?** (§405.9) No. There are handrails on one side and an edge on the other, but the top landing of the ramp has an opening for stairs, meaning that someone in a wheelchair or other wheeled device could roll off the ramp and down the stairs if they proceeded up the (too steep) ramp too quickly.