



# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

### MINUTES

**Meeting Date: January 8, 2024**

**Room: Zoom**

**Time: 6:00PM**

Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

Barney Heath,  
Director, Planning &  
Development

Lara Kritzer  
Director, Housing &  
Community Development

Sharon Cullins  
Planner  
Community Development

#### Members

Eileen Sandberg, Co-Chair  
Ima Jonsdottir, Co-Chair  
Jane Brown, Treasurer  
Lucie Chansky  
Petr Chovanec  
Nyree Kibarian  
Nancy Kritzman  
Sandra Lingley  
Barbara Lischinsky  
Jack Lovett  
Matt Volpi

Jason Rosenberg  
Chairman Emeritus

#### Advisor

Sergeant Michael B. Wade  
Newton Police Department

#### Staff

Jini Fairley  
ADA/Sec 504 Coordinator  
617-796-1253

1000 Commonwealth Ave.  
Newton, MA 02459  
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This meeting was a virtual meeting on Zoom, by phone or by computer/iPad:

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Dial by your location

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#### Commission Members Present:

Ima Jonsdottir, Co-Chair, participating remotely  
Eileen Sandberg, Co-Chair, participating remotely  
Jane Brown, Treasurer, participating remotely  
Lucie Chansky, participating remotely  
Petr Chovanec, participating remotely  
Sandra Lingley, participating remotely  
Jack Lovett, participating remotely  
Matt Volpi, participating remotely

#### Commission Members Absent:

Nancy Kritzman  
Nyree Kibarian  
Barbara Lischinsky

#### Staff:

Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator  
Sgt. Mike Wade, Police  
Lara Kritzer, Planning  
Nika Sandal, Planning  
Sharon Cullins, Planning  
Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Mayor's Office

#### Guests:

Councilor Greenberg  
Councilor Downs  
Jeffrey DiIuglio  
Heather Wood  
Rob Caruso

### 1. Introductions (6:00-6:05)

At the start of the meeting, there were 8 members present.

### 2. Approval of the December 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes (6:05-6:10)

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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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Eileen asked if there were any changes to be made to the draft minutes. Hearing none, Jane made a motion to accept the minutes as read and distributed. Jack Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

**3. Accessible Fines Reports (6:10-6:15)**

Sgt. Wade gave the 2 accessible fines reports, which can be viewed on pages 7 & 8. There were 96 tickets issued in December, and many of Operation Access issued tickets are included in this total.

**4. Operation Access Report (6:15-6:20)**

Sgt. Wade reported on Operation Access, conducted from Black Friday until December 27. The number of tickets issued were 93 (\$18,600 in fines) and the 80 hours of Police Officer overtime incurred was \$6248.84. So far there were 2 tickets which were successfully appealed, and he will check before the next meeting regarding the status of any tickets appealed.

**5. Residential Accessible Parking Space Petition-9 Murphy Court (6:20-6:30)**

Mr. Jeff DiIuglio explained that has acquired a recent mobility disability and is unable to park out front of his home, as his street is always parked up. He does have a narrow driveway but in the winter rain water and melting snow drips onto this driveway and freezes, becoming icy, and unsafe to get in and out of his car with his walker, whenever parked there. Mr. DiIuglio mentioned that he received a Reasonable Accommodation to park out front of his home during the winter Overnight parking ban, which is very helpful, but again, he often can't even find a parking space in front of his home. He also mentioned, when a DPW staff person came by to assess the possibility of making an accessible parking space in front of his home, he found out that there is really not enough room there to install a legal accessible parking space without encroaching on the 2 adjacent driveways (city ordinance-vehicles cannot park closer than 5 feet of a driveway). Knowing that, and hearing that his neighbor, Mr. Molloy, at 5 Murphy Court, who also has a disability and has no driveway, requested an accessible parking space out front of his home (see next agenda item). Mr. DiIuglio isn't asking just for himself, as he understands that an accessible parking space is for anyone with a valid disability placard/plate and would be happy to share one with his neighbor or any other close by parking space. Many members and Councilors Greenberg and Downs expressed support of this petition. A motion to support a residential accessible parking space out front of 9 Murphy Court was made by Matt and Lucie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

**6. Residential Accessible Parking Space-5 Murphy Court (6:30-6:40)**

Jini explained a little further that Mr. Molloy at 5 Murphy Court made a petition for an accessible parking space in front of his home, 5 Murphy Court. There seems to be quite a lot of space for one or 2 parking spaces there. He has a valid placard. He cannot join by Zoom and can be reached by telephone if members have questions for him. There were no additional questions for Mr. Molloy so he was not called. Several members feel that at least one and maybe 2 accessible parking spaces should be installed, either 2 in front of 5 Murphy Court or, if possible, one in front of each of these petitioners' homes. Petr made a motion to support

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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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Mr. Molloy's petition to install an accessible parking space in front of his home at 5 Murphy Court. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

**7. CDBG Report (6:40-6:45)**

Sharon reported that there are no updates for the 3 current CDBG-funded Access projects this month. Her report can be found on pages 9 & 10.

**8. FY25 CDBG Final Project Vote (6:45-7:00)**

Sharon prepared and presented a PowerPoint for the members to review and select an access project for FY25 CDBG funding. She presented the first nominated project to replace 12 curb ramps and some curb extensions at the intersection of Beacon/Langley/Sumner Streets. In this case, this project is an ARPA funded project (\$190,000 ARPA funding) in need of additional funding due to cost escalation and complexity of the project (now estimated to cost a total of \$306,400). This project needs an additional funding in the amount of \$116,400. Although this amount is more than the typical annual CDBG allocation for Access Projects, there will be remaining funds from the FY24 project, approximately \$60,000, when that project (City Hall Drive) closes out. Sharon then presented the second nominated project, replacing 3 apex curb ramps with 6 new perpendicular curb ramps and potential pedestrian poles for the push buttons and potential relocation of the traffic light poles at the intersection of Chapel and Watertown Streets (3 of the 4 corners). This project has a range in the cost estimate between \$125,100 to 167,860. Jack commented that he walked around the Newton Centre curb ramps in the first nominated project and attests that these curb ramps are in tough shape. Ima reminded everyone that more access projects should be identified for FY26 CDBG funding, so that 3 projects are chosen and vetted by the appropriate department in order to have 3 projects to choose from at this point next year. Jack pointed out that the COD should consider other villages for accessibility projects to be more equitable. Each member had one vote to choose their top choice. The Beacon/Langley/Sumner intersection received 7 votes (Lucie, Petr, Jane, Ima, Jack, Matt, Eileen) and the Chapel at Watertown intersection received 1 vote (Sandra). Thus the COD recommends that the FY25 CDBG-funded Access Project will be the curb ramps/curb extensions at Beacon/Langley/Sumner Streets intersection.

**9. COD Officer Elections (7:00-7:30)**

Every January COD officers are voted in by the members of the COD itself. Matt, Nominating Chair, conducted the election. Beginning with the Co-Chair positions, 3 members were nominated, Ima, Jack, and Nancy. Both Ima and Jack said they would serve if elected, Nancy was absent and it was not known if she would serve if elected. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Jini couldn't find Nancy's phone numbers. Matt said if Nancy is elected as one of the Co-Chairs and not able to serve, the member with the next highest number of votes will become the Co-Chair. Each member has up to 2 votes, one for each Co-Chair (different members). Lucie (Ima & Nancy), Sandra (Ima & Jack), Jane (Ima & Jack), Jack (Ima & Jack), Ima (Ima & Jack), Petr (Ima), Matt (Ima & Jack), Eileen (Ima & Jack). The tally, Ima received 8 votes, Jack

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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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received 6 votes, and Nancy received 1 vote, thus Ima and Jack were elected as the 2024 COD Co-Chairs.

The Treasurer position was the next and last position to be decided. Matt reported that 3 members were nominated, Jane, Nyree, and Matt. Jane announced that she no longer wishes to serve as Treasurer, as she has for 15 years. Eileen thanked her for her long service and commitment as Treasurer, and Jane said it was time for someone else to take over this position. Nyree was absent, and it was unknown if she would serve if elected. She had texted Jini that she had a work crisis and hoped to join the meeting at some point. When Matt asked for nominations from the floor, Petr nominated himself, if Nyree and Matt could not serve. Jini called to see if Nyree would serve if elected, and Nyree said that she would serve if elected. At this point, both Petr and Matt withdrew their nomination, thus Nyree was elected as the COD's 2024 Treasurer.

### 10. Treasurer's Report (7:30-7:35)

Jane gave her last Treasurer's report which can be viewed on page 11. The Operation Access account reflects the \$3000 transferred from the main accessible fines account, for a total of \$6415.38, available for the 2023 Operation Access effort by the Police department

### 11. ADA Coordinator's Report (7:35-7:40)

Jini gave her report of her ADA activities for the month of December, which can be found on page 12. She described her site visit to 4 municipal parking lots to assess their accessibility and overall condition with Alfredo and Melissa from Engineering, in order to prioritize the next one or two lots to be improved. Jini highlighted the FHC C webinar, Landlord & Tenant, co-sponsored by COD and NHA, which was well attended and provided excellent information and resources. Several COD members were also in attendance. Lucie asked about Jini's involvement in discussing whether people with valid disability placards/plates would be allowed to be exempted from the winter overnight parking ban, as the COD supported and sent a letter to the City Council Public Safety & Transportation Committee. Jini had attended another one in December, but it is not clear if the Police department is in favor as it will be difficult to view a placard hanging from the rear view mirror in the dark and the winter, when frost, ice, and snow could be covering the windshield. The Police would still like a registration process in place in order to obtain the license plate of the vehicle which would be parking overnight with a valid placard, rather than exempting everyone automatically. Chair Councilor Downs would like more information, as to how many residents have valid disability placards, and how many residential accessible parking spaces are in the city. Since it was the end of the legislative session, this item was voted NAN, No Action Necessary, and that it would need to be docketed for to be discussed and possible voted upon in 2024-2025.

### 12. 2024 COD Awareness Event (7:40-8:00)

Ima updated everyone about the potential of reaching out to the Me2/ Chorus and/or Flute Choir, to perform, either at Newton North or other large venue. If we wanted several performers, they could perform for 20 minutes for \$1000 and one member could

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## CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### Commission On Disability

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share their lived experience with mental illness. Members thought that was a key part of their performance last year and would like adults to share again, it is stigma-busting. Lucie mentioned a chorus of singers with intellectual and developmental disabilities who give concerts as well. Dates were mentioned, but some members said to avoid May 12, Mother's Day. Hattie offered to check with the auditoriums at the 2 high schools so that the COD doesn't get charged, looking at other Sundays (maybe the 19<sup>th</sup> avoid, too) and Saturdays. Ima mentioned tasks/jobs for members, such as advertising, day of coordinating different groups, etc. Also Ima asked for ideas of other performers, theater group, artists to display their craft/artwork in lobby of each auditorium, etc.

#### 13. Co-Chairs' Updates (8:00- 8:15)

Ima mentioned that she is still on the curriculum group , anti-ableist group, will probably changing the name of the program/curriculum to Getting to Know You and Me. Jack as been chosen to be in another NPS group, the Disability Advisory Group. The first meeting is tomorrow and he is looking forward to participating in this group and reporting to the COD next month.

Eileen took a few moments to say good-bye and thank you to all the COD members and public at the meeting. She is moving out of Newton, thus she cannot be on the COD, as only Newton residents are eligible. She said it has been a great honor and privilege to be on the Commission and to lead as one of the Co-Chairs for the past 3 years. She has learned a lot and she will miss everyone. Ima said that she learned so much from Eileen and will miss her guidance. Eileen said that she will come back for events, like the one we just talked about and definitely to the Harvest Fair.

#### 14. Future Meeting Topics(8:15-8:30)

Jack suggested to hear more about the new state law concerning drivers with Autism being pulled over by Police, who will have a blue slip to provide to the Police Officer in those situations. It might be good to have someone from Newton's Police department to speak on this new law and how it will be followed here. His second suggestion is to discuss the housing shortage/long wait lists for housing for people with disabilities, maybe a non-profit to speak about that. Councilor Albright has expressed interest in this topic and invite her to an upcoming meeting. Ima commented on Jack's suggestion in a previous COD meeting to have Supt. Nolin to speak and she wondered if it would be best for her or someone from NPS to discuss topics not directly about Special Education, since that is the purview of the SEPAC, but maybe about field trips, accessibility and inclusion at school events, playgrounds, etc. Ima mentioned also discussing or being better informed about the transition program for students with disabilities between the age of 18 and 22, and what is available , for instance, for housing and job opportunities. Eileen recommended inviting transition specialist to inform on this topic. Somewhat related to this is about summer programs and Newton Community Education and the provision of an aide if a student with a disability wants to participate. Jini reminded that this agenda item was turning into a discussion on topics not listed for tonight's meeting. The Co-Chair have quite a list now of new topics to consider for future agendas.

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**CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Commission On Disability**

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**15. Adjournment (8:30)**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.**

**These minutes were prepared and respectfully submitted by Jini Fairley, staff to the COD.**

**NEXT MEETING DATE: February 12, 2024**

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities requiring assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Sec.504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: [jfairley@newtonma.gov](mailto:jfairley@newtonma.gov) or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, please dial 711 or call City Hall's TTY/TDD line at 617-796-1089.

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**CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Commission On Disability**

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Reports and Supplemental materials:  
Police December Activity Report:

**NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

**PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT**

December 2023

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<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>\$ 19,200.00</b>
<b>SUCCESSFUL APPEALS</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 4,400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTSTANDING</b>	<b>\$ 12,600.00</b>

**CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS**

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 17,800.00</b>
<b>SUCCESSFUL APPEALS</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 11,800.00</b>

**CODE # 27 CURB CUTS**

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,400.00</b>
<b>SUCCESSFUL APPEALS</b>	<b>\$ 000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>



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**CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Commission On Disability**

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**NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2024

*As of December 31, 2023*

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**FY 2024 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals**

<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>\$ 40,600</b>
<b>SUCCESSFUL APPEALS</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 12,000</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTSTANDING</b>	<b>\$ 21,400.00</b>

**CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS**

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 36,400.00</b>
<b>SUCCESSFUL APPEALS</b>	<b>\$ 6,800.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 19,600.00</b>

**CODE # 27 CURB CUTS**

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 4,200.00</b>
<b>SUCCESSFUL APPEALS</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>



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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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### Newton Commission on Disability

#### CDBG Access Projects Report

January 8, 2024

**FY22 McGrath Park Perimeter Path Installation** – (CD22-03A; Budget: \$91,300.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$91,300.00)

Constructing an accessible perimeter path around Richard McGrath Park.

The LAX practice wall was impacting the perimeter pathway construction. The League was given a deadline for the 3rd of April to fundraise for said wall and has not responded in time. In lieu of the wall, the pathway will be able to run around the entire perimeter of the park with entry/exits on Washington St and Myrtle St. Designer is re-assessing the parking lot side of the park as well as reconfiguring the irrigation system and redoing the fence around the tennis courts to provide an accessible entry. Due to the rise in costs, the pathway cost is higher than expected, and Parks has requested the Community Preservation Committee to cover the gap of \$48,000, which they agreed to. With the addition of playable fields, McGrath has become close to a million-dollar project. The most up to date design of the park and perimeter was presented during the May meeting. DPW is moving forward with arranging all necessary documentation for the Conservation Commission permit. As they were preparing the Notice of Intent for the Conservation Commission, it came to light that the pathway exceeds the amount of impervious area allotted, which in turn triggers a necessary stormwater permit that must be completed by DPW. DPW is now working to identify a funding source for the required drainage systems.

DPW is moving toward final design construction documents and expects to go before the Conservation Commission and out for construction bid this Winter. **No new update.**

**FY23 Langley/Warren/Chase Crossing** – (CD23-03A; Budget: \$100,000.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$100,000.00)

Installation of accessible crossings at Langley Rd. and Warren St. This includes a bump out on the northeast corner of the intersection to create the space needed to install a curb cut to cross Warren St.

DPW has completed the scope of work and concept design for this project. Project was presented at the December 2022 meeting. DPW posted the bid on the City of Newton's website on January 5<sup>th</sup>. The bid opening date was January 19<sup>th</sup>. The contractor chosen was Antonellis Construction. The bid came in just a

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## CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### Commission On Disability

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little under \$150,000. Construction started on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and ended on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Although the bulk of the project has been completed, there is a vendor back order. Antonellis Construction is waiting for the push button for the RRFB. It is expected to be in stock mid to late September. In addition, DPW is waiting for the final as-built inspection and report from the Contractor. The Push buttons have been installed. The contractor submitted an as-built plan, but there was some comments and are waiting for the contractor to submit the revised as-built plan. Still waiting for an as-built plan. **No new update.**

**FY24 City Hall Campus – (Cost Estimate: \$42,000)** Two curb cuts to be added to connect folks to the accessible elevator entrance near the Department Head parking lot. Site visit has been completed. The contractor chosen for this project is Antonellis Construction. Work is set to start on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Antonellis is hopeful that the work will be completed in 2 to 3 days of work. After their work is completed DPW will be responsible for the regrading of the pavement and stripping to keep costs down. Majority of the work has been completed. The contractor needs to install pedestrian crossing signs and DPW needs to restripe the crosswalks and reset brick to make the work level. The pedestrian crossing signs have been installed, the crosswalks restriped, and concrete was put in place of the brick to ensure to that it is level with the existing brick. Just waiting on the compliance paperwork from the contractor. **No new update.**

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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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### Treasurer's Report

Given by Jane Brown, Treasurer of the Newton Commission On Disability (COD)

Presented at the January 8, 2024 Newton COD Meeting

As of January 1, 2024, the balances of the COD accounts have not changed and are as follows:

Account # 5500-335518 H-P. Fines-Disability Commission

Type: Receipts Reserved for Appropriation (These funds have to go before the City Council to be appropriated before being used)

Balance: \$ 76,889.60

Account 01C60218-524090 Set up to purchase accessible play equipment for Williams School Playground

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$10,831.12

Account # 01C10802-513010 Operation Access – Disability Commission

Set up to pay for targeted enforcement of accessible HP Fines violations by the Police

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$6415.38

Account # 01C40128 Set up to pay for RRFB at Langley/Warren/Chase intersection

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$18,000.00

Account # 01C60211 Set up to purchase accessible equipment for Burr School playground.

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$1,537.00

Account#C401083-586005 Set up to purchase and install Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) units at the Waverly/Tremont intersection

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: **\$50.50** (8 APS units installed in December 2018)

Account # 0110320-571600 Set up to pay fee for May 7, 2023 Me2/ Concert

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$0.00

Account # 5064D103 Set up in Fall 2015 to receive Community Access Monitor Program fees and pay expenses)

Type: Revolving Account

Balance: \$29**0.00**

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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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### ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator

Presented at the January 8, 2024 Newton Commission On Disability meeting, for activities during the month of December 2023.

#### Site Visits:

- In person at 4 parking lots with Alfredo and Melissa, to prioritize next municipal parking lots to be resurfaced and striped for accessibility

#### Trainings:

- FHC , NHA, & COD co-sponsored Landlord & Tenant Training- excellent

#### Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- PS&T Committee- on Winter Overnight Parking Ban discussion considering residents with valid disability placards or plates
- DRC/SBC & Working Group meetings- Countryside School
- Focus group for services/activities for new Senior Center
- DRC/SBC & Working Group meetings -Franklin School
- DRC/SBC & Working Group meetings for Horace Mann addition
- DRT for 40B proposed housing on Crafts St.
- Fair Housing Committee (FHC)- attend monthly meetings
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- attend bi-weekly meetings
- Commissions On Disability Alliance monthly meeting