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**NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 9, 2024.

Virtual Meeting via **Zoom**

Meeting Recording link:

[https://newtonma.gov.zoom.us/rec/share/OB6sEJjeoD-lsEfb8ubMkM2dkK\\_w6WOqvwesQNIYdYiZvYTn--LzcbSYEX2dVufu.z7RKlxbFrltZvQuq](https://newtonma.gov.zoom.us/rec/share/OB6sEJjeoD-lsEfb8ubMkM2dkK_w6WOqvwesQNIYdYiZvYTn--LzcbSYEX2dVufu.z7RKlxbFrltZvQuq)

Meeting Agenda and materials found at:

[www.newtonma.gov/government/planning/boards-commissions/commission-on-disability/meeting-agendas-and-minutes](http://www.newtonma.gov/government/planning/boards-commissions/commission-on-disability/meeting-agendas-and-minutes)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ima Jonsdottir, Co-Chair, Jack Lovett, Co-Chair, Nyree Kibarian, Lucie Chansky, Nancy Kritzman, Sandra Lingley, Nathan Persampieri, Matt Volpi

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Petr Chovanec, Barbara Lischinsky, Jane Brown

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC/APPLICANTS:**

Rob Caruso, Janine Stewart, Laurie Collis, Matt Conover (MBTA), Ben Weinstein (MBTA), Julie Lynch (MBTA), Sophia Faldonie

**STAFF:**

Sharon Cullins, Planning & Development Department  
Lara Kritzer, Director, Housing & Community Development  
Barney Heath, Director, Planning & Development  
Jonah Temple, Assistant City Solicitor  
Jini Fairley, ADA/Sec 504 Coordinator  
Sgt. John Babcock, Newton Police Department  
Jenn Martin, Director of Transportation Planning

● **Introductions**

- The chair introduced members present, city staff present, accessible parking applicants present, and asked the others to introduce themselves and they were welcomed to the meeting.

● **Approval of July Meeting Minutes**

- Ima asked if any Commission member had any questions about the minutes and with none, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes.
- Lucie made a motion to approve the minutes and Nyree seconded the motion

- Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0-2
- **New COD Staff Support**
  - Jonah Temple went over the memo that was sent to the commission outlining the transitioning of the administrative duties to Sharon Cullins and Jini's role and responsibilities. The memo can be found online in the meeting materials.
- **Accessible Fines Report**
  - Sgt. Babcock gave reports for the months of July and August. He noted that we are now in the new fiscal year. This report can be found in the meeting materials found online.
- **AP5-24 Residential Accessible Parking Petition**
  - Laurie Collis, of Crystal St explained the need for an accessible spot for her daughter, who is in a wheelchair. After a brief discussion and 2 motions offered, one by Lucie the second by Nyree. The motion was passed by a vote of 8-0-0.
- **AP6-24 Residential Accessible Parking Petition**
  - Walter Stewart, of Lincoln Rd was represented by his daughter Janine. She explained the need for accessible parking for her father. After a discussion and 2 motions offered, one by Lucie the second by Nyree. The motion was passed by a vote of 8-0-0.
- **MBTA Presentation**
  - Matt Conover, Ben Weinstein and Julie Lynch presented a power point going over the MBTA efforts to make The D line the first accessible branch. The presentation reviewed both near-term upgrades as well as the long-term upgrades for the Chestnut Hill, Eliot, Waban and Newton Highlands stops. Which begins in October 2024. After the overview of the work to be completed, the panel answered questions and addressed both comments and concerns. Ima thanked them for attending and sharing their information and getting the committee's feedback. This presentation can be viewed online as well as a full recording of the meeting.
- **Recap of July's Disability Pride Event/Thank you to Mayor**
  - Ima shared that several members were panelists, and the event was well attended. The mayor as well as several city councilors were in attendance. Ima strongly encouraged everyone to check out the recording. Nathan commented that someone had requested an Autistic Pride Event. Ima gave a shout out to Jenny Acosta from Understanding our Differences as to what incredible resource she is, and Lily Waitsman at the Newton Public Library for all her efforts. Jack also mentioned Jini for all that she did as well. NewTV recorded the event and the link to the event is on the 9.9.24 Agenda.
  - Co-Chairs would like to send a thank you note to the mayor Ima read the "draft" thank you for feedback. They read the note to the commission before taking a vote. Nathan made the first motion and Nancy made the second motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 7-1-0.
- **Harvest Fair Discussion**
  - Ima discussed the Harvest Fair that will take place on Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> from 11-4. Asking for volunteers to help man the COD booth, Setup, break down, canopies, items for sensory area etc. and will send out a sign-up sheet. Ima asked for a vote on whether to participate or not. Sandra made the first motion and Nyree made the second motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 8-0-0.

- **Proposed December 12<sup>th</sup> film screening of “The Ride Ahead”-Discussion and vote**
  - It will a joint effort with “Understanding our differences” and the Newton Public Library. She read a synopsis of the movie and told the committee that Ima, Jack and Jini had permission to screen the movie in advance. Jini mentioned that she is working on making this event available through ZOOM as well. Ima then asked for a vote. Nathan made the first motion and Lucie made the second motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 8-0-0.
- **Treasurers Report**
  - Nyree read the report and there were some changes in the accounts. Jini mentioned possible discrepancies and Lara Kritzer commented about accounts being spent that Regina in comptrollers added the account in question. The account will be looked into and seen whether it should stay on the report for next month.
- **Co-Chairs Corner**
  - Jack gave an update on DAG, and spoke about his one-on-one meeting with COD members
  - Ima mentioned that the Marty Sender Path was reopened and there was a ribbon cutting ceremony. Jini attended
  - COD was invited to have a booth at the Haywood House Senior Resource Fair on Oct 1st

Next meeting – **October 21, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Cullins, Staff