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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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Meeting Date: February 8, 2021

MINUTES



Ruthanne Fuller  
**Mayor**

Barney Heath,  
**Director, Planning &  
Development**

Amanda Berman  
**Director, Housing &  
Community Development**

Tiffany Leung  
**Planner  
Community Development**

**Members**

Lakshmi Kadambi, Co-Chair  
Anne Marie Killilea, Co-Chair  
Jane Brown, Treasurer  
Warren Abramson  
Rob Caruso  
Lucie Chansky  
Rosemary Larking  
Sandra Lingley  
Barbara Lischinsky  
Girard Plante  
Eileen Sandberg  
Matt Volpi

Jason Rosenberg  
**Chairman Emeritus**

**Advisor**

Sergeant Dan Devine  
Newton Police Department

**Staff**

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

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

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**Room Zoom**

**Time: 6:00PM \* New Start Time**

**This meeting will be a virtual meeting on Zoom, by phone or by computer/iPad:**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84610100556?pwd=L2FuS2Rsem1UDlNeGIHOEpndnJ6QT09>

Meeting ID: 846 1010 0556

Passcode: 279296

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84610100556# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,84610100556# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 846 1010 0556

Passcode: 279296

**Commission Members Present:**

Lakshmi Kadambi, Co-chair, remotely on Zoom

Anne Marie Killilea, Co-chair, remotely on Zoom

Jane Brown, Treasurer, remotely on Zoom

Rob Caruso, remotely on Zoom

Lucie Chansky, remotely on Zoom

Sandra Lingley, remotely on Zoom

Barbara Lischinsky, remotely on Zoom

Girard Plante, remotely on Zoom

Eileen Sandberg, remotely on Zoom

Matt Volpi, remotely on Zoom

**Commission Members Absent:**

Warren Abramson

Rosemary Larking

**City Staff and Advisors Present:**

**Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator**

**Sgt. Dan Devine, Police**

**Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Mayor's Office**

**Guests:**

**Councilor Bowman**

**Rabbi Darby Leigh**

**Nancy Krintzman**

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

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At the time of introductions, Rosemary and Warren were not present. Rosemary let Jini know that she wasn't feeling well enough to attend.

**2. Introducing New Community Engagement and Inclusion Director (6:05-6:15)**

Hattie Kerwin Derrick introduced herself as the city's new Community Engagement and Inclusion Director, replacing Dana Hanson, who is the District Director for the new Representative Jake Auchincloss. Hattie knows some of the members as she was the Chair of the Human Rights Commission. Just prior to her position with the city one month ago. She announced a webinar on Back to Basics of Mental Health, organized by the Health and Human Services department, on March 2, from 6:30-8PM. More details will be sent to all members shortly to register. She also mentioned that with Rabbi Leigh's guidance, the city's paid Zoom accounts will now provide Closed Captions within the Zoom platform, rather than needing an Add-On, like Otter. AI. In order to enable this feature, accessing advanced settings to enable Live Transcription in advance, and when a Zoom meeting begins, the host needs to also click on CC or Live Transcription and enable this feature. These captions are Automatic Speech to Text (AST), produced electronically, not with a live person. They are quite accurate and fast, as Anne Marie commented. Now every city meeting on Zoom has this accessible feature, not just ones that also had the Otter.AI Add-On. Hattie also mentioned that she has the same work cell phone number if anyone needs to all her, she speaks with Dana weekly.

**3. Approval of 1/11/21 Meeting Minutes (6:15-6:20)**

Girard wanted to know how we knew that Michael Conlon had Mental Illness. It was agreed that the minutes should say that it was reported that he did, as it was in all the accounts of his being shot by Newton Police. Jini will add this language, that he was reported to have Mental Illness. Jane made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Eileen seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0-1 (Girard abstained).

**4. Zoom Closed Captions (6:20-6:30)**

Jini gave a few more details regarding the new speech to text captions within the Zoom platform, with paid Zoom accounts, not requiring a separate Add-On software program. This is a recent feature that Zoom has built into their Zoom platform and will make meetings more accessible for anyone with hearing loss. Anne Marie said this is historic and the Late Deafened Adults are struggling with all the Zoom meetings, rather in person, so this is a terrific advancement for all who use closed captions, say on the television.

**5. CDBG Report (6:30-6:35)**

Matt read the CDBG report that Shaylyn from Planning provided. This report can be found on page 8.

**6. Accessible Fines Reports (6:35-6:40)**

Sgt. Dan Devine gave the 2 reports on the fines collected, dismissed, and outstanding for the month of January and for the fiscal year. These reports can be found on pages 9 and 10.

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**7. Treasurer's Report (6:40-6:45)**

Jane gave the Treasurer's report. This report can be viewed on page 11. Rob asked when the Fines account will reflect the new formula agreed upon by the Mayor and the COD Co-chairs of record, Rob and Girard, back in April 2019, to take effect during fiscal year 2020, where the COD would receive up to the first \$40,000 fines collected, and any remaining revenue for each fiscal year over \$40,000 would be split, 60% to the city's general fund and 40% added to the COD Fines account. Jini answered that it appeared, even after the audit last fall, that certain departments were not informed of the new formula and they are looking into how to reconcile these accounts.

**8. ADA Coordinator Report (6:45-6:55)**

Jini explained that often the winter precludes site visits, so she had none to report. Her report can be viewed on page 12. She let the members know that the accessible parking space she petitioned for in front of the Newtonville Post Office on Washington St. was passed by the Traffic Council (5-0) and as soon as the 20 day appeal passes a sign will be installed to indicate the accessible parking space. There are a couple of mailboxes possibly in the way of some exiting their car or deploying a ramp, and the manager of the PO has been asked to move them. Lucie asked if Jini had heard if or when the PO was moving into the commercial part of Washington Place, and Jini said it was not mentioned or confirmed either way.

**9. Presentation by Anne Marie (6:55-7:30)**

Anne Marie, Co-chair of the COD and a nurse by profession who is Late-Deafened, gave a very educational and informative presentation on the various types of hearing loss, described the culture of the Deaf and deaf communities, and especially ways that medical professionals can be sensitive and helpful when interacting with any patients who are late deafened, that is, those who were not born deaf but have hearing loss later (those who are born deaf use ASL to communicate primarily). She wanted the entire COD to see this presentation, to get their feedback, before offering this presentation to Newton-Wellesley Hospital staff. After the presentation, many commented very positively on Anne Marie's presentation, saying that it was excellent, fabulous, and very thorough, educational, gave and practical suggestions to the medical staff working with patients with hearing loss. Some of the additional comments and questions included: suggesting adding information for the medical staff on the needs of deaf-blind patients, adding information about someone with unilateral hearing loss, affecting only one ear, suggesting to show the permeability and movement between the Deaf (those born profoundly deaf) and the deaf (hearing loss acquired later) communities as some may have a foot in both as well, and a question about her statement not to use 'hearing impairment' as that seems to encompass the range of hearing loss. For that last point, Anne Marie explained that impaired implies that the hearing loss can be fixed, which it cannot, and those with hearing loss can choose whether they want to use adaptive devices or not, such as Cochlea Implants, but one is working with those devices but hearing is not restored. She added that being impaired might also have the connotation of being drunk, or damaged, which is not the case and could be considered a derogatory

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term. Asked what is the appropriate term, Anne Marie said for people who have acquired hearing loss, you can use Late Deafened, Hard of Hearing, and/or use the small ‘d’ as in the deaf community.

**10. Update on NWH 1/14/21 Meeting (7:30-7:45)**

Sandra, Chair of the NWH COD Subcommittee, gave a report of the January 14 meeting. The agenda for that meeting and the accessibility issues discussed which exist on the hospital campus, inside and outside, with the Newton Wellesley Hospital staff, can be viewed on page . Although the attendance was low from the public and the COD membership, that were 5 NWH staff present. It was agreed that Justin, NWH Facilities Director and Isaac, city Traffic Engineer, will make a site visit, before the next subcommittee meeting, to the hospital’s west entrance driveway to figure out the best way to improve the safety for pedestrians crossing that very wide driveway. Regarding the curb cuts along the sidewalk in front of the White building, Justin assured us that they have identified Capital Improvement funding to repair them to become ADA compliant, hopefully in the spring/summer, and other parts of the campus, including the parking lot near the west entrance. The hospital is conducting an inventory of their medical equipment including exam beds, Mammogram machines and other radiology machines, which will take about a year, and they will be replacing old equipment with accessible equipment. The staff were very open to suggestions as to how to accommodate individuals with hearing or vision loss, including wayfinding (accessible signage), as they enter the main lobby as a visitor , for testing, or as a patient admitted to the hospital. The NWH staff are finalizing training of their policy to allow a PCA or a family member to remain with a patient with a disability which necessitates assistance, during Covid restrictions, even in the ER. The last topic covered was the continued smoking on the public sidewalk next to the stairs and ramp to the Blue and White buildings. The hospital campus is smoke-free, incentives for patients to stop smoking, however providing granite slabs to sit on and several ashtrays does not discourage smokers from congregating there. This topic and more on parking facilities will be covered at the next NWH Subcommittee meeting on March 3, from 3-4:30PM. All are invited, especially members, friends, and families who frequent the Newton Wellesley Hospital and have encountered inaccessible features. Girard referenced a report by the Executive Director of Stavros Independent Living Center regarding hospital’s obligation to provide a reasonable accommodation, under Title III of the ADA, when PCAs or family members are needed for a patient with a disability, even during the Covid restrictions in place at this time. Lucie said that the ARC of Massachusetts was instrumental in Partners policy on this, and she will send a copy to Jini.

**11. Update on Spotlight on Mental Health Meeting on 1/22/21 (7:45-8:00)**

Eileen needed to leave the meeting early so this agenda item was taken up after the ADA Coordinator’s report. Eileen gave a brief report on the first ‘Spotlight on Mental Health’ COD Subcommittee, which took place on January 22, 2021. The COD members and the public discussed ways to remember Michael Conlon (in-person candle-lighting/vigil, perhaps in the fall) and to educate and to bring awareness to this disability, including a concert, webinars, art work, NAMI programs (Our Own Voices),

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## CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### Commission On Disability

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etc. Since May is Mental Health Awareness Month, the committee is hoping to have at least one event then and to partner up with a city department or commission and non-profit organizations. Several members from the Newton Wellesley chapter of NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) attended and want to help with the planning the committee's efforts. This Subcommittee will meet again on Wednesday, February 24, from 1:30-3PM and all are invited to join the conversation. Both Eileen and Anne Marie spoke about the 'Shadow Pandemic' where many are struggling with anxiety, depression, extreme fatigue during this pandemic, struggling with mental illness, even more so the age group from ages 18-24, according to a snapshot study by CDC last June. Hattie suggested that Megan Kennedy, the city's new Director of Social Services, be invited to the next subcommittee meeting.

#### 12. Power Outage Update (8:00-8:15)

In Rosemary's absence this evening, Jini updated the members as to what her investigation revealed. It turns out that Eversource does not maintain a priority list of residents using life-saving equipment, such as a ventilator, or have medicine that needs constant refrigeration, both needing electricity. For some, a back-up plan can be figured out with family and friends, for others it is more complex. Even though Eversource does not maintain such a list, residents with disabilities are encouraged to fill out the Disability Indicator Form, filed with the Police Department, which will come up whenever an emergency happens at the residents address. Rosemary's housing complex has agreed to install an outlet in her apartment which will be connected directly to the building's generator, so if the power goes out, this generator will provide electricity for her ventilator. Some members commented that the information on the mass.gov website, what to do before, during, and after a power outage, to be excellent and very helpful information.

#### 13. Brainstorm Goals for COD 2021 (8:15-8:30)

Anne Marie said that she and Lakshmi would like to know if there are any goals the members have for the COD for 2021, referring back to the extra meeting last March where the members expressed ideas and goals for 2020. Despite the Covid restrictions and not meeting in person since March, quite a few goals/projects were accomplished. The question put forth are there any that have been mentioned before but not started or completed, and any new goals for this calendar year. No goals were voiced by any of the members, but Someone requested to see the goals which were worked on last year and those mentioned but not begun or finished. The Co-chairs will put that together. Councilor Bowman suggested that the COD partner with the City Council to ensure safety and accessibility on city sidewalks when construction is taking place, either repairing a portion of a sidewalk or a curb ramp. There were several issues that came up during the streetscape construction in West Newton and Newtonville, that the city could learn from and ensure more pedestrian access, where no one needs to walk in a busy street, like Washington or Walnut St, especially a pedestrian with a disability. Several Councilors have docketed an item for the city to come up with a better process to ensure accessibility and safety for all pedestrians and cyclists. Councilor Bowman mentioned Washington, DC as a model (she will send the link to that virtual meeting

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with DC) , and Girard added that we don't have to go that far, that both Boston , Brookline, and Cambridge have done that successfully. Jini added that she has been working with DPW to come up with a policy or at the minimum, a statement that spells out the city's expectations for contractors we hire or of private developments, to provide safe passage when sidewalks and curb ramps are impacted by construction of any kind. More discussion ensued. Jini asked Councilor Bowman to let the COD know when the public hearing will take place, the sooner the better, since the construction season begins in April.

#### 14. Adjournment (8:30)

Jane made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Barbara seconded it, at 8:20PM.

The minutes were prepared and submitted by Jini Fairley

**NEXT MEETING DATE: March 8, 2021**

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.

## **Reports:**

**February 2021 CDBG Project Report\_Final.pdf**

**Newton Commission on Disability**

**CDBG Access Projects Report**

**February 8, 2021**

**FY21 Curb Cuts – (CD21-03C; Budget: \$84,043.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$84,043.00)**

**Installation of curb cuts at the following intersections: Watertown Street/West Street and**

**Watertown Street/Edinboro Street. Staff completed the Environmental**

**Review.**

**Phase I Marty Sender Pathway Installation – (CD21-03A; Budget: \$52,000.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$52,000.00)**

**Reconstruction of the Marty Sender Path with an accessible route, covering approximately ¼ mile of the route. Notice of Intent to Request the Release of**

**Funds has been released.**



# NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

### PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

JANUARY 2021

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<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>
<b>REDUCTION AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ 000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTSTANDING</b>	<b>\$ 000.00</b>

#### CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>REDUCTION AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ 000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 000.00</b>

#### CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>REDUCTION AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ 000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 000.00</b>

# NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

### PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2021

*As of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021*

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#### FY 2020 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	22
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 4,400.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 1,200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,400.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 1,800.00

#### CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	17
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 3,400.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 800.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 1,600.00

#### CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	5
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 1,000.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 600.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 200.00

# Treasurer's Report

Given by Jane Brown, Treasurer of the Commission On Disability  
Presented at the February 8, 2021 COD Meeting  
As of February 5, 2021, the balances of the COD accounts 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: \$60,299 (should increase, once adjusted with new formula in effect for FY20 revenues)

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: \$1880.89

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 #13D10901 Set up in Fall 2015 to receive Community Access Monitor Program fees and pay expenses)

Type: Revolving Account

Balance: \$29**0.00**

# ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, and presented at the February 8, 2021 COD meeting.

Site Visits:

None

## **Trainings:**

- Webinar: Top ADA Legal Cases of 2020- excellent
- Webinar: Vertical Access(ADA/ABA)
- Webinar- artificial Intelligence Fairness for People with Disabilities' Technology- very interesting

## **Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:**

- Police Reform Task Force Town Hall
- COD NWH Subcommittee Mtg
- **Public Hearing on Comm Ave & Auburn St.**
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration
- COD's MH Subcommittee Mtg
- Council On Aging- on NewCAL project
- Traffic Council- Petitioned Accessible Parking Space in front of Newtonville Post Office- passed
- Joint Public Safety & Transportation, Programs&Services, & Public Facilities Committees- Sen. Creem on Police Reform Legislation and Draft Recommendations from the Newton Police Reform Task Force
- NewCAL- every other week meeting
- Fair Housing Committee- I attend this monthly
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- I attend every other week
- CODA- monthly meeting- with other CODs' members and ADA Coordinators
- West Newton & Newtonville Streetscapes Working Group- every other week updates