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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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**Meeting Date: February 10, 2020**  
**Room 204**  
**Time: 6:30 pm**

**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 Bob Lee, Jr.  
Newton Police Department

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

1000 Commonwealth Ave.  
Newton, MA 02459  
T 617-796-1240  
F 617-796-1254

**Commission Members Present:**

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

**Commission Members Absent:**

Warren Abramson

**City Staff and Advisors Present:**

**Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator**  
**Tiffany Leung, Planning**  
**Sgt. Bob Lee, Police**  
**Dana Hanson, Mayor's Office**  
**Luis Perez-Demerizi, Parks, Recreation, & Culture**  
**Shelby Booth**

**Guests:**

**Tyrone Hooks**  
**Joe Killilea**  
**Representatives from Dunstan East**

**1. Introductions (6:30-6:35)**

**In their introductions, Anne Marie and Lakshmi thanked the members for their trust in them and support to lead the COD in 2020 and asked everyone for their patience, understanding, and cooperation in their new roles as Co-chairs. Prior to the beginning of the meeting Anne Marie and Lakshmi recognized Rob and**

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Girard for their 12 years as the Co-chairs of the COD with a token of appreciation from the COD, reusable drink cups with straws with the seal of the city on them and thank you cards. At the start of the meeting, Eileen and Rosemary had joined the meeting by phone.

**2. Approval of 1/13/2020 Meeting Minutes (6:35-6:40)**

Anne Marie asked if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes as distributed. Rob said that there was no mention that he was interrupted last month when speaking about the incomplete minutes of the December 9, 2019 meeting. In addition, he was expecting the wording that would be added to the December 9 meeting minutes incorporated in the January 13 minutes. Jini explained that whenever there is a change/correction to be made to the minutes, she corrects them in the minutes themselves and does not provide the text of those changes in meeting minutes that follow. In any case, Rob would like the January minutes to reflect being interrupted at January's meeting. Rosemary made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. At this point in the meeting, Sandra and Barbara joined the meeting, both participating remotely. Warren did not join the meeting.

**3. Open Meeting Law Training (6:40-7:10)**

This training was tabled as the presenter, Maura O'Keefe, Assistant City Solicitor, was ill with the flu. It will be held at the March 9 meeting.

**4. CDBG Report & FY21 Funding Vote (7:10-7:30)**

Tiffany gave her report of the CDBG-funded access projects. This report is available on page 8.

Several projects were presented to members to consider and vote upon for the FY21 CDBG funds. The first was presented by Luis Perez-Demerizi, Open Space Coordinator of Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department. His proposal, which everyone received in advance, was to make accessible a portion (.9 miles) of the Marty Sender path, part of the larger Blue Heron Trail, located at the Auburndale Park, 'The Cove'. Luis explained that this trail is relatively flat but needs a more stable and firm material here, which would be stabilized stone dust. He also plans to provide a shoulder on the left and right of this trail which will be a different material and color, and can be detected underfoot or with a white cane. Also part of this proposal is to provide this stabilized stone dust at 4 small outlooks where there are

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benches to view the Charles River or the woods. There were many questions relating to the exact location and how it will connect up with an existing asphalt path which goes through the picnic table area to the field house. Luis assured that it would connect up accessibly and will also add some signage as well. The estimated cost of this accessible, almost 1 mile, path will be \$52,000. Girard offered his perspective and expertise to accompany Luis and Jini on a site visit in March or April. Barbara asked about public transportation to Auburndale Cove and Lyons Field/Park. Lakshmi found that the Bus 558 goes from the Riverside Station to several stops near the Park or near a street that leads to the Cove (Comm Ave. & Islington, Comm & Ash, Comm & Melrose, & Lexington & Freeman). This bus runs just weekdays and has a gap of service between 9am and 1:15PM, but overall runs from 7am to early evening, and the schedule is at the [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com) website. There is also a 505 bus that runs on a portion of Commonwealth Avenue from the intersection of Washington St. and Comm Ave, and then turns off of Comm Ave towards Lexington St. at the Pamela Court stop (note from Jini). Jane made a motion to recommend this trail project at the Auburndale Cove for CDBG funding in the amount of \$52,000. Rosemary seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7 (Yes-Jane, Rosemary, Eileen, Lakshmi, Anne Marie, Girard, Matt) -3 (No-Sandra, Barbara, Rob) -1 (Lucie Abstained).

Tiffany explained that there would be \$43,000 FY21 CDBG funds available for another project, or if curb cuts, could be combined with the FY20 Curb Cut Funding Pool. Tiffany showed Google views of the 3 intersections that the DPW has proposed for this funding. Two of the intersections, Watertown and West, and Watertown and Edinboro,, and the last intersection is in Newton Centre 2 blocks from that village center, Centre at Trowbridge. The total cost, for these 3 intersections, including 9 curb cuts and some bump outs, has been estimated by DPW at \$80,000. If these curb cuts were chosen for CDBG funding, there would be a gap of approximately \$5,000 and Tiffany said that some other CDBG projects (not access projects) may come in under budget and this gap could be covered. There was much discussion around the cost of making these intersections accessible and the bump outs required to provide the compliant slope for the new curb cuts. The consensus was to invite someone from DPW Engineering to explain in more detail the scope of these 3 intersections. Sandra asked if there were any other projects being considered for the remaining CDBG funds. Tiffany said she wasn't aware of any 'shovel-

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ready' project proposal. Sandra suggested a an accessible path through or around McGrath park as it is a heavily used park by neighbors, even when there are no sports being played on the fields. Unfortunately Luis had already left the meeting, and although Jini has run this by Parks & Recreation in the past when Barbara recommended this park for more accessible paths, Jini is not aware of any plans for that but could be explored with Parks & Recreation Department, since they would be the ones overseeing/managing such a project, perhaps for FY22 CDBG funding. Matt made a motion to recommend these curb cuts for the remaining FY21 CDBG funds and for the FY20 CDBG Curb Cut funding pool, pending a more detailed explanation by DPW as to the scope and cost estimate for these 3 intersections. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-1 (Sandra abstained).

**5. Accessible Parking Space Request (7:30-7:35)**

Jini explained that the applicant, an elderly resident, was unable to attend this meeting. There is a place on the Traffic Council's upcoming February27 agenda, if the COD would like to support this request for an accessible parking space at 62 Fellsmere Rd. without the applicant. Otherwise there will be at least a month or more delay for this applicant if the COD waits until next month's COD meeting, when the applicant would hopefully be able to attend. Both Sgt. Lee and Lucie were able to visit this location and both recommended that a parking space out front of the applicant's home would be much easier for her to get in and out of her car rather than where the driveway ends at more stairs in the back. Also there are tree roots interfering with her getting in and out of her car from the driveway than out front. Jane made a motion to support this request for an accessible parking space out front of 62 Fellsmere Rd. Lucie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 11-0. Jini said that she would let the Traffic Council of the COD's decision and will speak with the applicant to attend the Traffic Council meeting, if at all possible.

**6. Accessible (HP) Fines Reports (7:35-7:40)**

Sgt. Lee gave the 2 Fines reports which are on pages 9 and 10.

**7. Dunstan East 40B Apartments (7:40-8:00)**

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Representatives of Mark Development gave a presentation of their proposed 40B apartment complex, Dunstan East, located on Washington St. between Dunstan St. and Kempton Place in West Newton with the Cheesecake Brook to the north. This rental apartment complex consists of 3 buildings with 244 apartments and 12,100 SF along Washington Street, of commercial space, where 61 apartments will have affordable rents for tenants with an income no more than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). All the parking for the residents is underground. The architects, both primary and consultants, are local and include the accessibility firm of Kessler, McGuinness & Associates (KMA). The breakdown of apartment types: 17% studios, 46% 1 BR, 26% 2 BR, 11% 3BR. There will be 13 more fully accessible apartments (AAB Group 2) and all apartments are adaptable/accessible. The developers are looking into possibly providing and additional one or two more fully accessible apartments. There will be public courtyard between buildings 1 and 2, where there will also be some commercial activity, like a café. There is a steep grade difference between Washington St. and the Cheesecake Brook behind, to the north, so they are proposing a new road along the brook, and stairs and an indoor elevator to take residents and visitors/public down to the brook level where there will be a boardwalk and site amenities. The buildings will have 2 elevators each. Girard asked if they considered a ramp or walkway to bring the public down from the courtyard at the Washington St. level to New Book Drive. The developers did consider this but the grade level change is steep and dramatic, where the difference is 18 feet in height. The public can also access the boardwalk at the Cheesecake Brook from either Dunstan East and Kempton Place, which will be wider but the slope due to the topography of these streets will not become accessible (grade more than 5% slope, but will be wider and much improved. Questions were asked about the flooding near the brook, the developers will be improving by adding an open space, compensatory flood storage area. Some of the members would like to see some apartment rents to be for households with incomes at or below 50% AMI, and Mark Development is looking into this but may not be possible, within the 40B regulations. For more information about this proposed development, visit the city's website at: [www.newtonma.gov/planning](http://www.newtonma.gov/planning) and choose links to Development Review and high interest projects.

**8. Treasurer's Report (8:00-8:05)**

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Jane gave the Treasurer's report and can be found on page 11.

**9. Co-Chairs Meeting with the Mayor (8:05-8:10)**

The Mayor congratulated Anne Marie and Lakshmi on their Co-chair positions and expressed praise for all the work Rob and Girard had accomplished with the COD and hope that they will upon going forward. The Co-chairs mentioned wanting to sponsor a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA with the COD members. The Mayor mentioned that the LIME bikes were being replaced, most likely, by the Blue bikes, as Brookline, Cambridge, and Watertown have, which has a docking system, which hopefully will eliminate these bikes being left everywhere, blocking sidewalks and curb cuts,. The Co-chairs will meet with the Mayor on a quarterly basis and will set those dates in advance.

**10.Special COD Meeting Scheduling (8:10-8:20)**

Anne Marie said that she and Lakshmi want to propose an extra/additional meeting in order to have the time to get to know each other and to discuss some topics or issues members want to have the COD pursue or that there doesn't seem to have enough time during the regular monthly meetings. If possible, they would like to schedule this additional/special meeting before the March 9 scheduled COD meeting. This will be an open meeting, held in a public place, and agenda posted in advance, minutes prepared, most likely from a recording. Different locations and different times of the day and evening were discussed. Since one particular date could not be found, Lakshmi will send out a Doodle Poll this week to find a date when everyone can hopefully attend.

**11. ADA Coordinator's Report (8:20-8:25)**

Jini gave her report of ADA activities which can be found on page 12. She passed out the flyer from IHCD regarding the expert users being sought about the 3 commuter rail stations accessibility project. Rob encouraged those to attend, at least the workshops to give feedback as to what they would like to see when the stations will be made accessible.

**12.Old/New Business (8:25-8:30)**

Tyrone brought up an idea about a developer being required to have funds, in perpetuity, to make adaptable apartments more accessible. Members said that is not under the COD jurisdiction. These are private developers and would be

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difficult to force this issue. Jini said there laws that protect potential tenants with disabilities in this situation.

Lakshmi said that she is thinking of attending the MOD seminar on the 2020 Census, and Lucie mentioned that the webinar information she sent around was very helpful and thorough. This could be another topic for the additional special meeting.

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

**The meeting adjourned at 9:25PM.**

**Prepared and submitted by:**

**Jini Fairley**

**ADA/504 Coordinator**

**NEXT MEETING DATE: March 9, 2020**

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.

**Newton Commission on Disability  
CDBG Access Projects Report  
February 10, 2020**

**FY20 Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs)** – (CD20-03A; Budget: \$66,292.29; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$66,292.29) The COD voted to allocate FY20 architectural access funds to the installation of four sets of RRFBs at the following intersections: Centre Street/Pleasant Street; Christina Street; Lincoln Street/Chester Street; and River Street/Elm Street. Dagle Electrical Construction Corp. was awarded the contract. **Installation is expected to take place in late March 2020.**

**FY20 Park Pathway Installations** – (CD20-03B; Budget: \$30,500; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$30,500) The COD voted to allocate FY20 architectural access funds to the installation of accessible pathways to park amenities across the City. 7 locations were identified, including Auburndale Playground, Cabot Park, Countryside School, Franklin School, Upper Falls Playground, Weeks Park, and West Newton Common. **Staff conducted a site visit with Parks & Rec and DPW on 1/31/2020 to confirm the scope of work. As a result, staff has decided to remove Cabot Park from the list of locations due to the future removal of park amenities. Staff will execute a MOU in the coming weeks.**

**FY20 Curb Cut Pool** – (CD20-03C; Budget: 31,882.33; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$31,882.33) The COD voted to allocate FY20 architectural access funds to the installation of curb cuts. **No update.**



# NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

### PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

JANUARY 2020

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TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	32
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 4,600.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 1,300.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,200.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 4,100.00

#### CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	19
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 4,000.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 1,300.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 600.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 2,100.00

#### CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	13
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 2,600.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 0
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 600.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 2,000.00

# NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

### PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

#### FISCAL YEAR 2020

*As of JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020*

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

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	272
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 55,200.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 16,800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 25,345.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 13,225.00

#### CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	197
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 39,900.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 15,200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 15,730.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 9,085.00

#### CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	75
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 15,300.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 1,600.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 9,615.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 4,140.00

# Treasurer's Report

Given by Jane Brown, Treasurer of the Commission On Disability  
Presented at the February 10, 2020 COD Meeting  
As of February 10, 2020, the balances of the COD accounts are as follows:

Account # 5500-335518 (new account number in new city financial system) 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: \$61,939

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: \$7,202.97 ( (This does not reflect the overtime bill from the Police of \$5322.08)

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: **\$940.00**

# ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, and presented at the February 10, 2020 COD meeting.

## Trainings:

- Webinar: Drugs, Alcohol, and Conduct and the ADA
- Webinar: Employment First and the ADA

## Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- 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- on phone with other CODs and ADA Coordinators
- Development Review Team (DRTs) – I attend as needed- 409-411 Lexington St. 20 unit housing complex
- Crescent St. Working Group
- Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee-updating the 2013 plan
- Quarterly Meeting with the Mayor & COD Co-chairs
- Lecture at Druker- 100 Years History of Parks & Recreation
- Public Meeting on the Consolidated Plan at Planning & Development Board
- Movie Screening & Discussion of Intelligent Lives- at Druker
- Public Meeting on Open Space & Recreation Plan