



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Meeting Date: June 8, 2020

MINUTES

Room Zoom

Time: 6:00PM * New Start Time

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/415115921>

Meeting ID: 415 115 921

One tap mobile

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Barney Heath,
Director, Planning &
Development

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 415 115 921

Amanda Berman
Director, Housing &
Community Development

Tiffany Leung
Planner
Community Development

Commission Members Present:

Lakshmi Kadambi, Co-chair, remotely on Zoom

Anne Marie Killilea, Co-chair, remotely on Zoom

Warren Abramson, remotely on Zoom

Rob Caruso, remotely on Zoom

Lucie Chansky, remotely on Zoom

Rosemary Larking, 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

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

Commission Members Absent:

Jane Brown, Treasurer

Jason Rosenberg
Chairman Emeritus

City Staff and Advisors Present:

Barney Heath, Director of Planning

Tiffany Leung, Planning

Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator

Sgt. Bob Lee, Police

Dana Hanson, Mayor's Office

Shelby Booth

Advisor
Sergeant Bob Lee, Jr.
Newton Police Department

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

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Newton, MA 02459
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Guests:

**Christine Carey, Newton SEPAC
Representatives from Northland**

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

Everyone came in on Zoom except for Jane, at the time of introductions.

Taken as the 6th agenda item:

2. Approval of 5/11/20 Meeting Minutes (6:05-6:10)

Lakshmi asked if everyone had read the minutes of the May 11 COD meeting as distributed and if there were any changes. Hearing none, Lucie made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. Rosemary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 11-0.

Taken as the second item on the agenda:

3. CDBG Report (6:10-6:25)

Before Tiffany's report, Barney spoke about how often Tiffany would be attending the COD meetings. Barney said that the Planning Department's intention is to have Tiffany present at key COD meetings, about 6 meetings a year. Girard expressed his understanding that someone from Planning would be at every meeting if members have questions about current or future CDBG access projects. Barney said that their staff is stretched pretty thin and it is not really possible for Tiffany to be present at every meeting. Eileen said she understood that Tiffany would be available when planned or needed.

Tiffany then gave her CDBG Access Project report. This can be viewed on page 10. Lucie asked if the crosswalk at the RRFB crossing on Christina St has the horizontal stripes. Tiffany said she will note the type of crosswalk at her upcoming site visit and will report back. Jini said that the crosswalk striping is by MassDOT not the scope of the project, and that she already asked for the horizontal stripes to the DPW Transportation Division. Girard was concerned about part of the asphalt path at Auburndale Park. Tiffany described what the scope of the project was. She will check out the condition of the asphalt path when she is on her site visit there. But it doesn't seem to be part of the scope of this project and it may be maintenance by Parks, Rec, & Culture that is needed. Rob asked Tiffany if Girard could accompany her when she makes her site visit to Auburndale Cove. Tiffany said, due to Covid, it is difficult to have too many participants on a site visit and, there will already be 3 there, herself, Jini, and Luis

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from PRC. Tiffany said she would be in touch after the staff visit there. Girard offered to take photos of the asphalt path at the Cove that runs through the grill/picnic area. Also, Girard reminded Tiffany of his offer for a site visit to Auburndale Cove back in March. Tiffany said that was not for the Park Pathway project but for the FY21 Marty Sender project. Neither staff or any site visits have been conducted since his offer, but Tiffany will definitely contact Girard when a site visit is scheduled and the scope of that project is being developed.

The following item was taken up as the 5th agenda item:

4. Accessible Fines Reports (6:25-6:30)

Sargent Lee reported that only 2 tickets were issued, for parking in an accessible parking space without a valid disability placard or plate, but only one is recorded in the system, was paid, and is accounted for in the year-to-date report, which is available on page 11. Matt asked about what is happening to the meters. Sgt. Lee said that the meters are being upgraded or repaired, which was a good time to do this, since many of the Parking Control Officers were furloughed and few tickets were issued these past couple of months.

This agenda item was taken as the 4th item:

5. Northland AAB Variance (6:30-7:00)

Tonight's presentation from Northland concerns the variance they are seeking from the MAAB, due to the 20 foot grade differential between Needham Street and the proposed Village Green and the Mill Building at the Mill Park. The plans show navigation throughout the site with terraces, stairs, sloped walkways and a bridge. There will be accessibility to 3 accessible features within the accessible routes, at the top, the bottom and about half way, provided by 2 elevators in building 3. The other 5 points do have small water features at the landings between flights of stairs. These water features represent the path of the South Meadow Brook culvert which is underground but there are plans to daylight this brook as the water feature at the lower end of this route at the Mill Park. Keith O'Connor from SOM and Josh Safde from Kessler, McGuinness, & Associates, the accessibility consultant for this housing development, explained the difficulty in providing further accessibility. Overall nearly half of the 22 acre site is open space, and with the exception of these 5 small water features, the entire site will be accessible. Keith also reported that the MAAB reviewed their variance today and granted the variance. Some

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members were surprised by this design as the last time Northland came to the COD in November 2018, they didn't anticipate applying for any MAAB variances. Some other members think that the design is very creative in providing an accessible route throughout the open space, given the difference in grade of 22 feet. The 2 elevators will be open to the public 24/7. Rob asked if there was any thought to change the topography instead. Since they are dealing with existing grade difference that cannot change, especially at the bottom of the mill building. A motion was made by Eileen to support the variance Northland is seeking. Anne Marie seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-4 (Rob, Girard, Lucie, Rosemary).

Taken as the 8th agenda item:

6. **Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Support Letter (7:00-7:15)**
A letter was drafted by several members of the COD (Lakshmi, Barbara, Jane, and Eileen) and distributed to all COD members for approval at this meeting, to be included with the final OSRP. This draft letter can be viewed on page 13. Lucie commented that people first language was not used near the end of the letter, 'disabled community'. That will be fixed. Rosemary made a motion to approve this letter with that one correction. Eileen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 11-0. Dana commended the Commission on lending their voice to this important 7-year plan.

Taken as the third agenda item:

7. **Newton SEPAC Presentation (7:15-7:35)**
Christine Kerry represented the Newton Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC), mandated by law, is a group of parents who advise the Newton School Committee and the Newton Public Schools' Special Education Department. It is a group where parents of students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Accommodations (18% of the student population) can gather with each other and share their student experiences in the Newton Public Schools. She is hoping there could be more of a connection with the COD. She mentioned that 3 COD members have been active in SEPAC: Lucie, Lakshmi, and Eileen. Christine answered many questions. The SEPAC can be the first place parents whose student has been recently diagnosed to benefit from Special Education and want to learn the next steps. Other parents need to connect

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with other parents navigating the school system, to connect students with each other with similar disabilities and concerns. There are 22 schools and administrations and parents may wonder how an issue is treated in other schools. There are liaisons from the School Committee on the SEPAC. The SEPAC is mandated to provide a Workshop on the Basic Rights for Parents & Students in Special Education. This has been provided by the Federation for Children with Special Needs, and sometimes community lawyers will provide this presentation, too. Eileen talked about the COD being a resource for students in transition, either when they graduate at 18, or at 22. Lucie mentioned that there is a monthly Board meeting and presentations by speakers on various topics, open to the public, and would be interesting to both adults with disabilities and parents of students with disabilities. If parents disagree with the IEP for their student, there is due process to work out conflicts and the SEPAC and their members can be a great resource to parents in this situation. Lakshmi shared her difficulties as an immigrant parent, where she felt she wasn't communicating effectively with the school for the first 5 years. Christine said there are now efforts to translate key information in different languages. Recently the Basic Rights workshop was offered in 2 Chinese dialects. But SEPAC has no budget/funds, and it takes funds to translate materials and websites into other languages. They do share anything that FCSN translates, too. They try to get the word out to all parents with students with special needs but only about 20% are involved/on their mailing list. Rosemary shared her struggles to be educated in the 50s and 60s in a public school setting. Matt asked what the SEPAC is doing about the education of students with disabilities and on an IEP during the remote learning that we just went through for the past 3 months. And going forward, how is the city going to staff the modified classrooms if the students return to the classroom, as many paraprofessionals have been laid off. What is the SEPAC doing about this? Christine said that parent voices need to be heard at every level, at the School Committee in their school district and beyond. Distance learning doesn't work for many students with disabilities and the guidelines from the Dept. of Education are vague and make it even hard for families to bring lawsuits when the education is not provided. There have been webinars by attorneys on this aspect of the virus situation we are facing. She recommended for parents to work one-on-one with their students' teachers and the SEPAC and advocacy organizations are working on the systemic changes needed during this crisis.

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Taken as the 7th agenda item:

8. Treasurer's Report (7:35-7:40)

Jane was absent. There were no changes to the Treasurer's Report since the last COD meeting. The Treasurer's report that was distributed is on page 12.

9. ADA Coordinator's Report (7:40-7:45)

Jini gave her report on her activities since the last COD meeting. Her report is on page 14. She mentioned that an ADA Conference, usually in person, went on Zoom and provided many excellent webinars specifically for ADA Coordinators. She also mentioned that she, along with many city staff, are involved in the upcoming guidelines for outdoor dining "Newton Alfresco" where accessibility will be maintained, whether on a sidewalk, in a parking lot, or in the street. If you run into any access issue, you can report it to 311 and let Jini know. As some of you might have noticed, West Newton Square and Newtonville are under construction and will continue throughout the summer. Access is being maintained as best as possible and again, if you encounter any issues, report it to 311 and let Jini know. Rob asked about her attendance via Zoom at an AAB meeting where accessible mats, that Newton and other municipalities have been piloting for the past year and a half. Stephanie Lapham researched and found these mats and a distributor to see how they hold up over a couple of winters and how they provide an accessible route throughout a play structure to all ground level play elements and to ramps or transfer stations to upper level play elements. The late Tom Hopkins came out to Farlow/Underwood playground to check these mats out and he was very pleased with them, placed over wood chips, providing a more accessible route. The distributor asked the AAB to review the pilot and to approve these mats, as they are about 1/3 of the price of poured-in-place rubber. The AAB did approve them and will be issuing their finding/decision. Jini mentioned that she put a call into Stephanie to see if she could advise the COD regarding accessible playground equipment but she didn't get the message in time. Jini also mentioned that, for the first time, the Mayor's Community Breakfast, thanks to the Harmony Foundation, the meeting provided communication access with both an ASL Interpreter and CART services who provided close captions, all on Zoom.

10. Ideas for Fines Funded Projects (7:45-8:00)

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- **Grants to Newton Elementary Schools for Accessible Playground Equipment**

Lakshmi worked on a draft of an application/form if the COD were to launch a small grant program to Newton elementary schools to help purchase accessible equipment, such as adjustable poles for basketball courts (outside), slides of different materials that cut down on the friction, as a child slides down, an accessible merry-go-round, or an activity board, or to help pay for a ramp to upper level play elements of a play structure. This draft of an application/form can be found on page 15. Sandra thought that the COD members wanted to wait on this to see what other ideas there were to use the Fines funds. She wants to know why, if the city spends 55% of the city budget goes to schools, why isn't the Newton Public Schools providing this additional accessible equipment. Jini explained that the new elementary schools most likely do not need such equipment, but other school playgrounds might be in need. Alternatively, the parks and play structures not associated with schools could be the beneficiary of such a grant program to add accessible equipment to them. Anne Marie asked if these Fines funds could be used for efforts conducted by SEPAC. Jini didn't think the funds could be provided for parents who disagreed with with the decision for an individual student, but perhaps some funds could be given to SEPAC to help defray expenses for the Basic Rights Workshop or any other seminar/speaker. There are also non-profit organizations in Newton who provide services and activities to children and adults with disabilities, who might benefit from a donation. The members have heard from Athletes Unlimited and Access Sport America, so far. Lucie suggested that perhaps the funds could provide a trainer for teachers to bring a very successful program to help children with Dyslexia. Also, Eileen, Matt, and Lucie suggested funding a summer tutor program for children with special needs or if a program might go into the fall, due to Covid19. Eileen and Nathan Persampieri talked about funding a job coach for a student intern, maybe for next summer. The form was to generate this discussion and to be continued until the members decide what to fund.

11. Action Items from 3/4/20 Meeting (8:00-8:15)

- **Brochure**
- **Facebook Page**
- **Alternate COD Member to Attend Mayor's Quarterly Meetings**

Lakshmi asked for comments on the brochure, a draft can be found on page 17. She let members know what she incorporated from changes requested

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by members last month. Rob said that the O in Commission On Disability should be capitalized. He also asked for 22G added to MGL Chapter 40, 8J under the purpose. Lakshmi will make these corrections and bring it back to the members, along with either a quote from Jason or she will fill that space with something else. A motion was made by Rosemary to have corrections made to the brochure that were discussed here and to bring it back to members in July for approval. Rob seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 11-0.

Dana reported that the COD now has a facebook page and is in process to design a cover page and a profile. Nathan offered to help with these designs. Jini and Dana will post COD events, information, links to brochure (when finished), to the webpage, and to articles.

Alternate to quarterly Mayor's meeting with the Co-chairs. Lucie, Barbara, and Eileen were interested in this opportunity, which the mayor welcomes. It didn't appear that the June meeting with the Mayor would be possible for these members, but the Co-chairs will be in touch with these 3 members, especially if the meeting date is changed by the Mayor.

12.Planning for the ADA 30th Anniversary (8:15-8:30)

- **Summer Events (Chalk Art, Mayor's Commemoration)**
- **Film Screening- December 3-Remote plan**

Lakshmi reported that the Newton Cultural Council and Community Pride, along with the city's Cultural Development office are organizing an event, Saturday Sidewalk Studios where artists, both professional and student will create Chalk Art on the carriage lane, on 3 Saturdays (2 in July and one in August. She thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for the COD to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the ADA by having an artist with a disability to make a chalk art creation. One of the weekends falls on July 26, and she is proposing that the COD sponsor such an event. The professional artist would be \$600, a stipend for the student artist and a small amount for supplies. Jini said that the monies left over from the 2015 Community Access Monitor Program could cover this sponsorship. Rosemary made a motion to sponsor this Chalk Art event to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the ADA and to use up to \$750 for expenses (artists fees and supplies), from the CAM account. Eileen seconded the

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motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 10-0 (Lucie had left the meeting).

Nathan offered another idea to have an ADA Jeopardy game/event on Zoom, maybe on July 26, the actual anniversary. This would be an opportunity for the Mayor to make a proclamation with the audience, on Zoom. Dana said she will check in with the Mayor for her participation and mention in her email update. Other advertising avenues were discussed as well. Eileen made a motion to have this ADA Jeopardy event on Zoom on Sunday evening, July 26. Rosemary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 10-0.

Another idea from Eileen who suggested to make a video and interview residents of Newton with disabilities, asking what it was like pre-ADA and what it is like living 30 years post ADA, and this video could be posted on the COD facebook page.

The last item, a movie night as an event for the 30th Anniversary was tabled to another meeting.

Jini mentioned that the Boston celebration for the ADA anniversary will be July 22nd, at 1PM on Zoom.

13.Adjournment (8:30)

A motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting, which ran very late until 9:30PM.

**These minutes were recorded and prepared and submitted by
Jini Fairley, ADA/504 Coordinator**

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 13, 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 or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, please dial 711 or call City Hall's TTY/TDD line at 617-796-1089.

Reports:

**Newton Commission on Disability
CDBG Access Projects Report
June 8, 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 for 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. **Staff will be conducting an inspection/site visit to review the work, in preparation for project close out.**

FY20 Park Pathway Installations – (CD20-03B; Budget: \$30,500; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$30,500) The COD voted to allocate FY20 architectural access funds for the installation of accessible pathways to park amenities across the City. Locations are Auburndale Playground, Weeks Field, and West Newton Common. **DPW has installed the asphalt pathway at Auburndale Playground, Weeks Field, and West Newton Common. Staff will be conducting an inspection/site visit to review the work.**

FY20 Curb Cut Pool – (CD20-03C; Budget: 31,882.33; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$31,882.33) The COD voted to allocate FY20 and FY21 architectural access funds for the installation of curb cuts at the following intersections: Watertown Street and West Street, Watertown Street and Edinboro Street, Centre Street and Trowbridge Street. **No update.**

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020

As of MAY 31st, 2020

FY 2020 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	335
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 68,000.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 24,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 37,405.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 7,165.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	236
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 47,900.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 19,800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 23,255.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 5,250.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	99
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 20,100.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 4,200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 14,150.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 1,915.00

Treasurer's Report

Given by Jane Brown, Treasurer of the Commission On Disability

Presented at the June 8, 2020 COD Meeting

As of June 5, 2020, the balances of the COD accounts have not changed since the May meeting 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: \$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: \$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: **\$940.00**

Draft of OSRP Support Letter:

06/06/2020

To
Planning & Development Department
City of Newton

The Newton Commission on Disability strongly supports the 2020-2027 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) for Newton. We are especially pleased that accessibility is a goal of this plan and both accessible features and standards are woven throughout the plan.

We commend the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Environmental Planners in the City of Newton for their attention to detail in planning accessibility improvements to Park, Recreation and Culture parks and facilities and in Conservation areas in the city. It is duly noted that priority will be given to accessible pathways and amenities in proposed projects, such as at McGrath Playground, Bobby Braceland/ Newton Upper Falls Playground and Lyons Park, promoting healthy living among Newtonians with disabilities (or of all abilities), young and old.

"The City of Newton recognizes that in order to grow as a community it needs the full participation of persons with disabilities."

For this to happen we have to ensure improved accessibility of existing structures and all future structures must be built to ensure the full participation of the disabled community. Without the inclusion of people with disabilities, Newton risks losing the very fabric of what makes this a great City, the diversity of its people. Accessibility should not be a privilege in Newton. It is a lawful right. Equal access and opportunity for all should always be at the forefront of any planning and must be provided.

Let us together champion full inclusion for people with disabilities in all parks, recreational and open spaces in Newton.

Thank you
Best Regards
Members
Commission on Disability, Newton

ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, and presented at the June 8, 2020 COD meeting.

Site Visits:

- **None,**

Trainings:

- Webinar: Chapter 5 of ADA/ABA Standards
- Webinar on ADA Compliance at Parks & Recreation Facilities
- Webinar on Reasonable Accommodations
- Webinar on Applicants and Employees with Vision Loss
- Webinar on Disability Language & Etiquette
- Webinar by NACTO on Streateries- Outdoor Dining
- Webinar on Effective Communication
- Webinar on Streateries- Local with several cities/towns
- Webinar on Service, Assistance, and ESA Animals

Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- **BCIL3 Zoom Mtgs-Social Security MassHealth, DTA/SNAP**
- **Zoning and Planning- OSRP presented public feedback**
- **Mayor's Community Breakfast- ASL & CART provided**
- NewCAL- every other week meeting, plus Community Mtg on May 21, 2020
- AAB Meeting on Zoom- Northland and Newton Pilot of Accessible Mats for Playstructures- Approved
- Mass Commission for the Blind (MCB) Town Hall on Zoom
- 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
- West Newton & Newtonville Streetscapes Working Group- weekly updates

Draft of Application Form:

COD Play Equipment Grant form

This grant is to fund the purchase of accessible playground equipment for 15 Newton Elementary schools. The funds are provided by Commission on Disability who recommends the use of funds the city has collected from the violations of the accessible parking laws.

1. Applicant name/ Title

2. Date: MM/DD/YYYY

3. Name of School applying for grant

4. What accessible play equipment do you hope to buy with this grant?

5. Supplier name and information

6. Cost of Accessible Equipment

7. Do you have an alternate way to fund any additional expense relating to the

grant?

8. Plan for installation

9. Invoice Deadline 12/31/2021

History

Formed in 1975, the Newton Commission on Disability (COD), formerly “The Mayor's Committee for the Environment of the Handicapped”, was chaired by attorney Jason Rosenberg for over 30 years.

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The work of the Commission slowly but surely changed the landscape of Newton by addressing accessibility and removing physical barriers with curb cuts for sidewalks, ramps for buildings, accessible pathways in parks, Accessible Pedestrian Signals, for persons with disabilities. Since the beginning of the federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the COD has recommended the expenditure of millions of dollars in access projects to benefit people with disabilities, and create a safer and more welcoming environment for all Newton residents. The COD, under the leadership of Girard Plante and Rob Caruso who followed Jason Rosenberg as the Commission Co-chairs, successfully advocated with the city to hire the city’s first full time ADA coordinator in 2015.

Mission

The Newton COD’s mission is to foster equal access to community life and activities for people with disabilities. Through education and advocacy, the Commission works to raise disability awareness and the importance of increased accessibility to programs, housing and facilities in municipal and commercial buildings, and other public entities.

Purpose

The purpose of this Commission is to cause the full integration of people with disabilities. In accordance with Newton ordinance (Z74 and MGL Chapter 40, 8J), the COD shall:

- (a) research local problems of people with disabilities;
- (b) advise and assist municipal officials and employees in ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations that affect people with disabilities;
- (c) coordinate or carry out programs designed to meet the problems of people with disabilities in coordination with programs of the Massachusetts Office on Disability;
- (d) review and make recommendations about policies, procedures, services, activities and facilities of departments, boards and agencies of the city as they affect people with disabilities;
- (e) provide information, referrals, guidance and technical assistance to individuals, public agencies, businesses and organizations in all matters pertaining to disabilities;
- (f) coordinate activities of other local groups organized for similar purposes.

The COD promotes adherence to Federal, State and City laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities such as:

- The Americans with Disabilities Act
- Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act 1973
- MA Architectural Access Board
- Fair Housing Act as amended

CDBG Access Projects

The COD analyzes project priorities and provides recommendations for use of CDBG funds in projects that remove architectural barriers and increase accessibility throughout the City of Newton. Here are some samples of projects undertaken through the years:

- Installation of accessible restroom- Hyde Community Center
- Installation of automatic entrance doors -Newton Free Library
- Installation of exterior entrance ramp- Auburndale Library
- Installation of Exterior Porch lift -NWW
- Creation of accessible asphalt pathways- Newton Centre and Newton Highlands Playgrounds.
- Creation of an accessible all gender restroom- Newton City Hall
- Installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals- in all signalized intersections.
- Installation of RRFB’s (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon)- mid block crosswalks
- Accessible Trails at Dolan Pond, Flory’s Path



Photo of exterior entrance ramp at the Auburndale library

Commission meetings:

The COD typically meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00pm on the 2nd floor of Newton City Hall. Meeting agenda and minutes can be found on the COD webpage- www.newtonma.gov/cod

The COD is a thirteen-member commission where the majority of the members are persons with diverse disabilities. All members are residents of Newton.

Contact

The city's ADA coordinator staffs the Commission on Disability and ensures equal access to facilities, programs, activities and services. For more information on the Commission on Disability, Newton, please contact Newton's ADA Coordinator at

**Newton City Hall,
1000 Commonwealth Avenue,
Newton Center – 02459**

Email: adacordinator@newtonma.gov



Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at Newton Center

Newton accessible (HP) parking information

In Massachusetts, where can the holder of a valid disability placard/ plate park?



- In authorized parking spaces signed with the International Symbol of Access (ISA).
- In a metered parking space at no charge and no time limit.

Violation Fines

\$200 First Offense - Parking in an accessible parking space without a valid disability placard or plate.

\$300 Second Offense and Repeated offense

\$200 First Offense Blocking curb cut/ ramp

The Commission receives and administers fines from violations of the Disability Parking Laws under Section 22G. Funds collected pursuant to this law is kept in a separate account and shall be used solely for the benefit of persons with disabilities.

Massachusetts White Cane Law M.G.L. c. 90 section 14A: Whenever a blind pedestrian, guided by a guide dog or carrying a raised or extended cane that is white or white tipped with red, attempts to cross a street, drivers must stop for the dog or cane user.

An accessible copy of this leaflet is readily available upon request. © 2020



Disability Icons

Commission on Disability Newton, MA

