



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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

Rachel Powers
**Manager
Community Development**

Tiffany Leung
**Planner
Community Development**

Members

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

Jason Rosenberg
Chairman Emeritus

Advisor

Sergeant Bob Lee, Jr.
Newton Police Department

Staff

Jini Fairley
ADA/Sec 504 Coordinator
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**Meeting Date: September 9, 2019
Room 204
Time: 6:30 pm**

MINUTES

Commission Members Present:

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

City Staff Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator
Tiffany Leung, Planning
Captain Paul Anastasia, Police
Dana Hanson, Mayor's Office
Shawna Sullivan, DPW
John Daghlian, DPW
Alfredo Vargas, DPW
Terry Crowley, DPW

Guests:

Tyrone Hooks

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

At the time of introductions, all 12 members were present, including Eileen and Rosemary participating remotely.

2. Approval of 7/8/19 Meeting Minutes (6:35-6:40)

After Rob asked if there were any suggestions, corrections to the minutes that were distributed in advance, and hearing none, Rosemary made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 12-0.

3. CDBG Report (6:40-6:45)

Tiffany gave her report of access projects funded by CDBG. You can read the report that was submitted on page 7.

Tiffany also spoke about the Planning Department's efforts to begin the 5 year Consolidated Plan (FY21-FY25, Needs Assessment and reaching out to the community. This plan guides all activities, including access projects, for CDBG funding for the next 5 years. Jini already distributed the dates for these community meetings and Tiffany will forward the flyer just prepared to also be distributed to the COD through Jini. She also asked for 15 minutes on the October agenda to have a focus group specifically with the members of the COD to hear what accessibility needs exist in Newton. Rob and Girard agreed to have a separate agenda item for this discussion at the October meeting for 15 minutes.

4. Accessible (HP) Fines Reports (6:45-6:50)

Captain Anastasia gave 2 reports of the tickets issued for accessible (HP) violations, either parking in an accessible parking space without a disability placard or plate, or blocking a curb cut. The first report covers the month of August and the second report covers year-to-date (2 months). You can view these reports on pages 8 and 9.

5. Treasurer's Report (6:50-6:55)

Jane, Treasurer for the COD, gave the Treasurer's report, and you can view it on page 10.

6. ADA Coordinator's Report (6:55-7:00)

Jini gave a report of her ADA activities and you can view it on page 11. She also announced that she will be speaking at the MOD Disability Summit on Friday, September 27, about the MOD Municipal ADA Improvement grant that the city received last December to install 81 APS units at 14 signalized intersections and was completed at the end of June. This is the 5th year that MOD has organized this event, and over 400 disability advocates will be in attendance. Dana, Lakshmi, and Jane expressed interest in attending and Jini will follow up with them, as she thinks it has reached capacity. Rob asked about NewCAL, the working meeting that Jini is a part of regarding the new Senior Center/Center for Active Living. Jini encouraged all to follow this new facility to be built, especially to attend some of the community meetings coming up in the following months. The decision as to where to build this center is in process.

7. Apex Curb Cuts with DPW Staff (7:00-7:40)

John Daghlian from the DPW Engineering Division gave a presentation about recent apex curb cuts on Washington Street between Commonwealth Ave. and Beacon Street. Since this presentation is 25 pages long, you can request it from the ADA Coordinator.

Girard interrupted John's presentation to ask why the COD Co-chairs 'emails were not replied directly, although they acknowledge that Jini did respond to all emails from the COD, Girard made the point that the COD is a separate entity. At this same time, Rob made the point that if public safety is of paramount importance, why are there apex curb cuts being used where they could lead a blind pedestrian out into a busy street when crossing a side street. John stated that the tactile plate on the curb cut is not a directional tactile plate, it just warns a blind pedestrian to that he/she is entering the road. Barbara asked what is Off-apex, and John replied that the tactile plate and curb cut are not on the true apex of the corner, but rather attempting to be more perpendicular when possible. Sandra pointed out that line of sight is used as the reason for many apex curb cuts and commented on some of the graphics in John's presentation, where she, as a driver, could see pedestrians clearly and a perpendicular curb cut would have been better. This presentation and discussion was very lengthy, with comments regarding very specific intersections, such as the main driveway into the Woodland Golf Club, where Barbara felt that a more direct path of travel crossing would be in her best interest and not have apex curb cuts. A member from the public commented that Newton has corners with excessive radii and too much asphalt in the intersections. She is told that it is because the fire trucks need these wider corners in order to make the turns into streets. John did mention that sometimes tightening the corner can improve a crossing, but often fire trucks and tractor trailers and other large vehicles run over the end of the corner, which is even more of a safety hazard. This same member from the public said that these large rounded corners and wide openings is just unique to Newton, and it doesn't make the city very walkable, sighted or not, when one has to walk /cross a 50 feet street opening instead of a typical street width of about 30-35 feet. She also said that many of these wide corners could be reconstructed to tighten them up but DPW does not do that and continues to keep these wide openings and apex curb cuts. Barbara wanted to know why the apex curb cuts at the West entrance driveway of Newton-Wellesley Hospital was not part of his presentation, as that is a very long crossing and would be helpful to have curb cuts in the path of travel. Alfredo described the placement of the tactile warning surface/plate, as to how far back from the road. Some DPW departments place this plate right at the edge of the road at the end of the curb cut, but those plates really take a beating as it can be in the vehicular lane, and during the winter the snow plows can destroy them. Newton places them behind the depressed curbstone, a few inches so that the plate is not at the road's edge but close enough to the end of the curb cut to give warning to blind pedestrians that they are about to step into a road or a very busy driveway.

Then John showed some samples of a way-finding tactile strip that could give more direction to a blind pedestrian either at the curb cut or the whole length of the crossing of a street. The company who supplies the city with the tactile plates for the city's curb cuts also makes some raised lines and channelized plates detectable underfoot and with a cane. John wants to do a pilot study with 2 or 3 intersections, especially where apex curb cuts cannot be turned into

perpendicular ones, to see where to install, that is most helpful and if these way-finding plates withstand the winter and plowing. John is hoping members of the COD will help identify the location of 2 intersections for this pilot. Barbara said that she probably didn't need the tactile imbedded into the entire crosswalk but rather just help her to line up just before stepping off the sidewalk and then on the other side to meet up with after crossing.

8. Discussion on Access Projects for MOD Grant and Accessible (HP) Fines Fund (7:40-7:55)

Jini is still looking for ideas for the MOD ADA Improvement grant, and the project has to be done in 6 months. Lucie suggested that the pilot that John talked about, if it is successful, would be a good idea for a project for the grant next year. Rob suggested more accessible RRFBs may be a good project for this year. Jini will definitely explore with DPW's Transportation Division. Jini also mentioned a possible accessible dock for the canoe/kayak rental by the Marriott.

9. Co-chairs Quarterly Meeting with the Mayor (7:55-8:10)

In reporting on their meeting with the Mayor, Rob said that there seems to be a lack of communication between the Co-chairs and the ADA Coordinator, and a discrepancy with understanding of who can do what and when. He referenced a site visit Girard arranged with the MBTA, see tonight's agenda, without running this by the Commission On Disability or the ADA Coordinator, who happened to be out of town, not when the meeting was arranged, but when the site visit took place. Rob says that there has always been a communication issue between the COD and city government. Rob said that the COD members don't work for the city, we are all volunteers. He said that the COD has always carried out their responsibilities in the past, that it is cut and dry, spelled out in the state statute and information from MOD. We, says Rob, don't want to butt heads with the city but sometimes we do. Rob suggested a training on the Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest at some point especially since there are new COD members. Rob reminded the members that they received a booklet on the Conflict of Interest and suggested all to review. Girard referred to information on the MOD website and said that the COD in Newton and throughout the Commonwealth is the governing body regarding accessibility for each city or town.

10. Station Diner Update (8:10-8:15)

Warren mentioned that he went to eat at the Station Diner on Union Street and didn't find an accessible way to enter or exit the diner without a step in from the sidewalk. Jini contacted the city's Inspectional Services Department (ISD) to investigate, that it might be an issue of signage, as she had exited this diner once via an interior ramp, at one end. The ISD inspector discovered that there was no signage at the main inaccessible entrance as to where the accessible ramp was located. He also discovered

that, even though there was an automatic door opener for the accessible entrance, it is usually locked from the outside. The ISD Inspector spoke with the owner of Station Diner, and will work on more signage and ensuring that the automatic door opener is open the same hours that the diner is open. Jini did not yet have a timeline as to when the signage will be up, but the automatic door is working. Lucie mentioned that this accessible entrance was worked on many years ago when Coffee Connection was moving into this old historic train station. Lucie did mention that she wasn't sure there was a wide enough to navigate around the tables as they are close together. Jini said she will mention that to the inspector. Rosemary said that she and her husband are having a similar situation with a locked automatic door opener to an accessible entrance into the Citizens bank. Jini mentioned that she called there when Rosemary reported it to her, and they said they would check on why it is locked during business hours, and would alert staff near that door if anyone is trying to access that entrance.

11. Girard's Walkthrough with MBTA at Riverside (8:15-8:25)

Girard chose to table this item until next month's meeting.

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

Rob asked if everyone received the most recent AAB notice of action regarding 28 Austin St., who had come to the COD meeting a few months ago. Jini did electronically distribute it to the members and he read the notice to the members.

Rob also asked the members of the Newton-Wellesley Hospital subcommittee to let Girard know generally of their availability. Jini said that she had already reached out to staff at NWH and hopes to hear back soon to set up the first in-person meeting at NWH. There are 6 COD members on that subcommittee are Girard, Barbara, Rosemary, Warren, Eileen, and Anne Marie. Barbara mentioned that, due to health reasons, she is stepping off of this committee and the Nominating Committee. Sandra asked to take Barbara's place, as she was interested before but there were too many members on the NWH Committee.

Rob said that the Nominating standing committee, needs to have a Chair, and there are 3 members on that committee now, Matt, Rosemary, and Jane. Rob suggested that this committee meet in person or on a conference call and decide what method the committee members would like to use for contacting members or to contact the committee, of their interest to nominate themselves or another member for each office, or if members are in office, if they want to continue. Matt will organize and chair this committee. Rob said they should meet soon as elections are in January, and their work will be done in the coming months.

Sandra asked Jini to answer her question about possibly having a RRFB at the west entrance of Newton-Wellesley Hospital driveway. Jini had a site visit nearby with one of the city's Traffic Engineers, and discovered that

already NWH has installed a Stop sign with LED flashing beacons/RRFB on their campus, so she suggested this be on the top of the agenda when the COD meets with NWH. In addition, in order to be effective to have a similar flashing beacon surrounding the Pedestrian in Crosswalk sign, it would be installed on the NWH campus between the stop bar (for the vehicle) and the crosswalk, and be pedestrian activated.

Dana made an announcement that the Human Rights Commission will be holding a free training given by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, called Know Your Civil Rights, on Tuesday, October 29, , from 6-8PM in the Main Library in Druker Auditorium.

13.Adjournment (8:30)

Rob asked for a motion for adjournment of the meeting. Jane made the motion and Anne Marie seconded it. The motion passed unanimously at 8:53PM.

**Respectfully prepared and submitted by
Jini Fairley, ADA/504 Coordinator**

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 21, 2019, *

- Note that the October meeting is on the 3rd Monday since Columbus Day falls on the usual second Monday meeting time.

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: 617-796-1089.

**Newton Commission on Disability
CDBG Access Projects Report
September 9, 2019**

FY19 City Hall Wheelchair Accessible Single Use Toilet Room - (CD19-03A; Budget: \$116,541.11; Expended: \$81,658.78; Balance: \$34,882.33) The COD voted to allocate FY19 architectural access funds to the installation of a wheelchair accessible toilet room on the first floor of City Hall. The project will be managed by the City of Newton Public Buildings Department. Contractors are Vanguard Construction and P.J. Kennedy. **Staff is in the process of paying the final invoice, in order to close out this project.**

FY20 Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) – (CD20-03A; Budget: \$60,000; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$60,000) The COD voted to allocate FY20 architectural access funds to the installation of three sets of RRFBs at the following intersections: Centre Street/Pleasant Street; Christina Street; and Lincoln Street at Chester Street. **Bid documents are complete. In the coming weeks, the Purchasing Department will put the project out for bid.**

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 park pathways across the City. 7 parks were identified. **Staff is working with Parks and Rec and DPW to prioritize the 7 parks for pathway installation and to finalize cost estimates.**

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. **Staff is working with DPW to identify the location of curb cuts.**

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

AUGUST 2019

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	28
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 5,700.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 1,200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 800.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 3,700.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	18
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 3,700.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 1,200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 200.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 2,300.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	10
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 2,000.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 0
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 600.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 1,400.00

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020 (2 months)

As of August 31st, 2019

FY 2020 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	51
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 10,300.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 2,500.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 3,200.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 3,900.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	36
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 7,300.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 2,500.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,600.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 2,500.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	15
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 3,000.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 0
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,600.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 1400.00

Treasurer's Report

Given by Jane Brown, Treasurer of the Commission On Disability
Presented at the September 9, 2019 COD Meeting
As of September 6, 2019, the balances of the COD accounts are as follows:

Account #14-3314M3 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: \$59,883 (will be updated in November)

Account # C108006-513001 Operation Access – Disability Commission

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

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$2102.97

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 and presented at the September 9, 2019 COD meeting.

Site Visits:

- Walnut St. at Dexter- Reviewed with DPW staff for new crosswalk
- Park pathways to play structures with Tiffany and new Open Space Coordinator from Parks & Rec
- Washington Street sidewalk along Woodland Golf Club frontage; Newtonville Ave/Mt. Ida with Terry

Trainings:

- Webinar by New England ADA Center on Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans
- Advanced Community Access Monitor (CAM) given by MOD
- Traveling with a Mobility Disability given by ADA National Network

Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- Humpty Dumpty back at Cabot School
- CIP departmental meetings
- Council on Aging Building Domain Action Team (B-DAT) monthly meetings
- 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
- Austin St.- I attend this once a month meeting
- Development Review Team (DRTs) - 1149-1159 Walnut St.