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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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Meeting date: October 19, 2015  
Room 205  
Time: 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

James Freas, Acting  
Director, Planning &  
Development

Lydia Scott  
Senior Planner  
Community Development

#### Members

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair  
Girard Plante, Co-Chair  
Jane Brown  
Lucie Chansky  
Rosemary Larking  
Barbara Lischinsky

Jason Rosenberg  
Chairman Emeritus

#### Advisor

Sergeant Jay Babcock  
Newton Police Department

#### Staff

ADA/Sec 504 Coordinator  
Jini Fairley  
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#### Members Present:

**Rob Caruso Co-Chair**

**Girard Plant Co-Chair**

**Jane Brown**

**Lucie Chansky**

**Barbara Lischinsky**

**Rosemary Larking- participating remotely via phone**

#### City Staff:

Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator

Lydia Scott, Planning and Development

#### Guests:

Sandra Lingley

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

**The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM. Commission members and guest introduced themselves. Rosemary will be available at 7PM on the phone.**

### 2. Approval of 9/21/15 meeting Minutes (6:35-6:45)

**There were no changes requested to the minutes so a motion was made by Jane to accept the minutes for the 9/21/15 meeting as read and distributed. Lucie seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.**

### 3. CDBG Report (6:45-7:00)

**Lydia gave the following CDBG Access Projects report:**

**Historic Newton/The Jackson Homestead – Archives Preservation and Access** – (CD11-03F. Budget: \$40,000; Expended: \$33.98; Balance: \$39,966.02). Project is estimated to start in summer of 2015; a bid has been selected. It has been determined that the project will not require CDBG funding. The balance in this budget must be re-allocated. **No update.**



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**FY14 Audible Pedestrian Signals (APS)** – (CD14-03Z. Budget: \$13,000 Expended: \$0; Balance: \$13,000). Funding will go towards the purchase of units to be installed at intersections throughout the City. Up to twenty (20) units may be purchased from this budget. The intersections below have been selected to receive new units.

**Installation is scheduled for this month.**

- Walnut Street at Beacon Street (6 units)
- Hammond Street at Beacon Street (6 units)
- Homer Street at Walnut Street (6 units)

**Audible Pedestrian Signals – Centre & Centre** (Project CD13-03R. Budget: \$6,609.25; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$6,609.25). Transportation staff will visit the site this month to determine the number of APS units need to upgrade this intersection, and will draft an MOU. Staff will also review the existing timing of the signals at the intersection to make any necessary changes. The existing budget can fund up to ten (10) units. **No update.**

**Curb Cuts** (Project CD15-03Y. Budget \$193,987.71; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$193,987.71).

<u>Upcoming Projects</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>
Lincoln & Walnut	TBD
Washington & Walnut	TBD

Lincoln & Walnut – A design for this intersection, created by the Engineering and Transportation Divisions, was presented on Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. However, several alterations to two corners of the intersection must be made to the design. **No update.**

Washington & Walnut – Walnut St. has been paved from Comm. Ave. to Cabot St. Additional paving on Walnut St. is expected in 2015. The Washington St. MPO study is complete and the report is now available. Engineering staff is finalizing the design for this intersection. **No update.**

The following locations were approved for improvements in May 2014. The first two Auburndale intersections have been identified in the City’s 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plan; designs are currently in progress.

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1. Auburndale **(both intersections included in Capital Improvement Plan; designs in progress as part of the work in Auburndale Square.)**
  - a. Lexington and Commonwealth.
  - b. Melrose and Commonwealth.
2. Newton Centre
  - a. Centre & Hyde **(work completed)**
  - b. Centre & Allerton **(part of larger upcoming Newton Centre project)**
3. Newton Corner
  - a. Vernon & Baldwin.
  - b. Centre & Sargent and Centre & Cabot. **(survey work will be required and will be completed in fall/winter 2015.)**
4. Newton Highlands
  - a. Lincoln and Hartford.
  - b. Mid-block crossing on Lincoln between Walnut and Hartford.
5. Newtonville
  - a. Austin St. (north side) from Hillside Ave. to Star Market.
6. Nonantum
  - a. Stearns Park at Jasset
7. West Newton
  - a. Wellington Park on Kilburn Street

**Newton Centre Playground Pathway Phases IV-VI** – (CD15-03X. Budget \$130,000, Expended: \$165.10, Balance: \$129,834.90). All designs are complete. CD staff received DPW’s estimate of \$22,583 for the work on two phases. DPW has determined this work will be contracted out for spring 2016 construction. CD staff is working with DPW staff to prepare bid documents this fall. **No update.**

**Retrofitting Curb Cuts** – (Project CD13-03Q. Budget: \$16,548.82, Expended: \$0, Balance: \$16,548.82). Designs and estimates for this project are complete. The work will be completed by DPW this fall. DPW’s final estimate for this project is \$16,302 and will correct two apex curb cuts. **This project has been completed.**

**Lydia mentioned that we could make some small interim improvements to the area of Centre St. & Centre Ave, while it is still under study. Rob asked about what size project would we want to consider for this intersection. Lydia suggested**

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installing new APS, for example. Lucie asked Lydia if there are APS at the intersection nearest the Carroll Center, at Centre, Cabot, and Sargent. She didn't think so but will check, and she added that DPW would be surveying that intersection this winter for the upcoming 2016 construction season, and new APS would be added when they do any other work to that intersection. Lucie also mentioned that a crosswalk and possibly signal might be necessary a little further down Centre St. from that intersection towards Newton Centre where the 2 high schools, Newton Country Day and Mt. Alvernia students need to cross to take the T bus. Lydia reported on her site visit with Jini to Lyons Field, as there were some comments earlier that it wasn't that accessible. She reported that overall it is accessible at the main entrance but some minor improvements could be made, especially to the driveway that is used to access the field. A stone dust path connects the bleachers, the concession stand, the bathrooms, and dugouts. Needed is a small pathway from the main stone dust pathway to the side of the bleachers, right now there is grass. On the site visit, Jini suggested that the curb cut in that area be checked for compliance as well near this entrance. The suggestion to possibly have an accessible (HP) parking space designated near this entrance was made and will be looked into. Lydia mentioned that she did not have access to the bathrooms but since it is new construction, it would be built according to the MAAB regulations. Lydia will check with Parks & Rec for an estimate of the work to be done there. She also mentioned that she and Jini will check out other older fieldhouses when we can coordinate with maintenance. Rob suggested they visit Forte Park fieldhouse.

**4. HP Fines Report (7:00-7:15)**

Unfortunately Sargent Babcock was not able to join us as he wasn't feeling well, but he did submit the HP Fines report, below:

**NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**DISABILITY COMMISSION**

**HP FINES**

**CODE #26 & CODE #27**

**JULY 1, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2015**  
**(3 MONTHS)**

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**CODE #26 (TOTAL PAID) HP SPOTS**  
.....\$5,610.00  
**CODE #26 (OUTSTANDING)**  
.....\$4,505.00  
**TOTAL**  
.....\$10,115.00

**CODE #27 (TOTAL PAID) CURB CUTS**  
.....\$2,615.00  
**CODE #27 (OUTSTANDING)**  
.....\$2,500.00  
**TOTAL**  
.....\$5,115.00

**COMBINED TOTALS**

**TOTAL COLLECTED.....\$8,225.00**  
**TOTAL OUTSTANDING.....\$7,005.00**  
**TOTAL.....\$15,230.00**

**5. ADA Coordinator’s Report (7:15-7:30)**

**Jini reported that she did a site visit at Ward Elementary School, with Ed Mullen, from Inspectional Services. The school has minimal access but has provided programmatic access in the past. The school had installed some stair lifts, but were removed, so there is virtually no vertical access. At the moment they do not have any children needing that access, but they do have some students with visual impairments so additional accessible signage will be recommended. She also revisited the Underwood Elementary School’s parking lot since it was recently repaved and restriped. Unfortunately, the access aisle next to the accessible parking space was not striped correctly.**

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She then put in another request that a van accessible parking space be striped properly. Requested by Barbara, Jini and about 6 city staff members met Barbara and Sandra at Beacon St. in front of Angier School which is still under construction. There were several apex curb cuts crossing the driveway of the school, and extra detectable warning pads in the sidewalk directly in front of the school. It was a very thorough site visit and city engineers told us that they had not designed those curb cuts but had reviewed the plans a year or more ago before the concern over so many apex curb cuts in the city. In fact the school's contractor constructed these sidewalks and curb cuts. Engineering staff said they would make the changes to the curb cuts that Barbara had shown them there. Jini and Barbara also discussed the placement of the accessible pedestrian signals (APS) with Bill Paille, but not all the equipment has arrived yet. Barbara pointed out to Jini that the push button for the APS is on the wrong side of the pole at Manitoba and Beacon. Barbara and Rob are going to check out the same area once some of the changes are made. Jini and Bill Paille made another site visit at Centre/Clark/Cushing Sts which need new crosswalks. Jini then reported on the community meeting her and Girard attended, along with the Mayor, Rep. Balser, and about 35 residents, regarding the Newton Highlands T Accessibility Project. Girard mentioned that Robert Solomon, from the Highlands Area Council was the key person who has moved this project to the 15% design study level and arranged for the MBTA to present the options. Presently none of the entrances/egresses are ADA compliant. Rep. Ruth Balser was instrumental in finding some of the funding for this design. If the final plan continues to allow crossing the tracks for the inbound side, two of the entrances that exist now could be made compliant and either the tracks will need to be lowered or the platform raised for access to the train. This is the least expensive option and would be fully ADA and AAB compliant.

**6. HP 5-15 (Parking Space (7:30-7:45))**

Sgt. Babcock was not in attendance due to illness, to present his reasons for the change in location of an accessible HP parking space in front of Memorial-Spaulling School on Brookline St. Sgt. Babcock spoke about This relocation of the parking space in the previous COD meeting, saying that it was due to the fact that the original placement was on a hill and not the closest available space to the main accessible school entrance, thus not ADA compliant. Rob mentioned that he went out to Brookline St. and

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observed where the new location of this accessible (HP) parking space is and the traffic. He doesn't feel it is a good placement as It is near a curve and the road begins to narrow there and there is no space where someone could exit their vehicle on the driver's side and put together a wheelchair, due to the busy traffic going by. He feels it is dangerous in that situation. He would not park there. He observed that there are 2 accessible (HP) parking spaces in the school parking lot near another accessible entrance that the teachers use, where he would choose to park. Lucie pointed out that the entrance at the parking lot level is a great distance from any location within the school where school meetings would be held. Having both the space on the street and in the parking lot affords options for anyone with a placard to park, according to their needs. Jini mentioned that Sgt. Babcock also requested to cut in to the sidewalk at least 18" or more, if possible, to provide space to pull in and get out on the driver's side. Rob would be more comfortable with that solution if there would be such an indent or perhaps a bump out for that parking space, which exist in other parts of the city. Without the indent, Rob would not support this relocated accessible (HP) parking space. Jane suggested that we wait on a vote until Sgt. Babcock could be present to explain his reasons for moving the space and plans to indent the curb since there is a very wide sidewalk there. It was decided to continue this agenda item to the November meeting when Sgt. Babcock would be present.

**7. Elevator Project Update (7:45-8:00)**

Rafik Ayoub, city Project Manager, gave an update on the Elevator Accessibility Project. Demolition started in September. Everything was going well until they observed a steel beam protruding into the elevator shaft about 8 inches, up at the top level. Having to redesign and relocate the elevator shaft has delayed the project by a week or two. The pit has been completed now, water all pumped out, the elevator will be ordered this week now that the pit is completed, and the outside work will begin that week. Lucie asked about the timeline, and hopefully by mid-February the elevator will be installed and operational.

Rosemary asked if the elevator is made in China, and Rafik said no, it is made locally. She also asked about the type of elevator button, whether they are flat or raised and where the panel is mounted. Rafik and Jini assured her that the specs of the elevator will be ADA compliant. Instead of an emergency phone, there will be an emergency button. Girard asked if there was any structural



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damage when they discovered the 8 inch protrusion, and Rafik assured us that the building's integrity was not compromised and is intact. Rafik will keep us updated as the project progresses.

**8. CAM Training Update (8:00-8:15)**

Jini reported that there are 26 people registered, and Jeff is preparing 30 information packets/binders if we get any last minute registrations. Both breakfasts will be donated by Dunkin Donuts, thanks to Jason's connections. Both lunches will be donated, on Wednesday from Wegmans and Shaws/Star Market on Thursday. Rob and Laurie are picking up the Dunkin Donuts and Laurie is picking up the lunch at Shaws. Jini is still working on having Wednesday's lunch from Wegmans be delivered. It was suggested to have a follow up article in the Tab, maybe under Commentary, and signs on the table was suggested, as well, to thank our donors. Lucie offered to make up the thank you and email it to me to print out and Jane will also help me on the days of the event with signs and registration.

**9. Old/New Business (8:15-8:30)**

Rob said that we got notices from MAAB and they were all emailed to everyone. The variance application to the MAAB for 14 Collins Road came in and was already heard by the MAAB before we could ask them to present to the COD. The MAAB had given some minor conditions for the location and striping of an accessible (HP) parking space. This decision will be emailed to members once Jini receives the electronic format of the letter. Rosemary mentioned that bill3271 regarding organ donors and people with disabilities, that a public hearing on this bill is happening this week.

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

Adjournment took place at 8:45PM.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: November 9, 2015**

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you need an accommodation, contact 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, dial 711.