



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Meeting Date: March 14, 2022

MINUTES

Room Zoom

Time: 6:00PM * New Start Time

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84610100556?pwd=L2FuS2RsemU1UDIeGjHOEpdnJ6QT09>

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

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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

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

Nika Sandal
**Planner
Community Development**

Members

Anne Marie Killilea, Co-Chair

Eileen Sandberg, Co-Chair

Jane Brown, Treasurer

Warren Abramson

Rob Caruso

Lucie Chansky

Lakshmi Kadambi, Co-Chair

Nancy Kritzman

Darby Leigh

Sandra Lingley

Barbara Lischinsky

Girard Plante

Matt Volpi

Jason Rosenberg
Chairman Emeritus

Advisor

Sergeant Michael B. Wade
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
www.newtonma.gov

Commission Members Present:

Eileen Sandberg, Co-Chair, remotely on Zoom

Jane Brown, Treasurer, remotely on Zoom

Rob Caruso, remotely on Zoom

Lucie Chansky, remotely on Zoom

Nancy Kritzman, remotely on Zoom

Darby Leigh, remotely on Zoom

Sandra Lingley, remotely on Zoom

Barbara Lischinsky, remotely on Zoom

Matt Volpi, remotely on Zoom

Commission Members Absent:

Anne Marie Killilea, Co-Chair

Girard Plante

Lakshmi Kadambi

Warren Abramson

City Staff and Advisors Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator

Sgt. Mike Wade, Police

Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Mayor's Office

Nika Sandal, Planning

Commissioner Banks, PRC

Luis Perez-Demorizi, PRC

Carol Stapleton, PRC

Guests:

Representatives from MBTA GLT

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Petr Chovanec
Ima Jonsdottir
Councilor Bowman
Sarah Feinberg
Robert Solomon

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

At the start of the meeting, there were 9 COD members present, and Anne Marie, Girard, Warren, and Lakshmi were absent. Eileen read a statement from her and Anne Marie regarding procedures for discussion and voting.

2. Approval of the February 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes (6:05-6:10)

Eileen asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes of last month's meeting. Hearing none, Jane made a motion to accept the minutes as read and distributed. Darby seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0-1 (Barbara abstained as she was absent last month).

3. CDBG Report (6:10-6:15)

Nika gave the CDBG Access Projects report, which can be viewed on page 7. Lucie commented that she saw a sign in Brighton which was the usual picture of a figure and an arrow pointing to the crosswalk, and surrounding this sign were flashing lights around the sign. She thought it must be less expensive and it definitely draws the driver's attention to the crosswalk. Nika said she would look into that. Ima asked about the design of the Langley/Warren/Chase, as she lives on Warren and concerned about the diagonal across Langley. Nika said she would send her the concept plans to review.

4. Accessible Fines Reports (6:15-6:20)

Sgt. Wade gave the 2 Fines reports, the first covering the tickets issued and whether paid, dismissed, or outstanding, for February, and the second for the fiscal year to date, for 8 months. These reports can be found on pages 8 and 9. There were no questions.

5. MBTA-Chestnut Hill, Eliot, & Waban Accessibility (6:20-6:50)

The Green Line Transformation Team presented on the progress being made at three Newton T stations, Chestnut Hill, Eliot, and Waban. This presentation can be viewed on pages 10-16. The accessible features are the same as the MBTA presented last April to the COD. The newest information was about the timeline, design should be completed in the fall, the project to be bid out in the winter, and construction at these 3 stations to begin in the spring of 2023 and completed in the fall of 2023. Rabbi Darby asked if they have made the emergency call box at each station accessible to T riders who are deaf or hard of hearing, which he pointed out last April. They have not, but are still researching how to do that, but don't have the technology as yet. Barbara asked for a description of the 2 exits to the Waban T station and she also commented that the stairs that come down from Beacon St. are in terrible condition, she recently fell down them, and the plans to improve them. There are no plans at the moment, but they will look into

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

repairs. There were questions about the Newton Highlands T station, the timeline in particular, which is a separate accessibility project but first may need to present to the Newton Historical Commission again (the MBTA presented to NHC last spring). Jini asked to be informed by the GLT Team, in advance, if they have to go before the NHC to mitigate some of their issues from last year's meeting. The hope is that the Newton Highlands station will follow the same timeline as the 3 stations presented tonight.

6. Gath Pool Renovation Plans (6:50-7:20)

Luis Perez-Demorizi, Director of Parks and Open Space, gave a presentation on some of the design concepts they are considering for the renovation of the Gath Pool. He went over the goals, of which one is universal access for the pool and the bathhouse. This presentation can be found on pages 17-21. Ima had a comment on the waterproof shower chair, that the model showed in the presentation doesn't work that well. Luis said he will get more input and feedback once they are selecting equipment for the renovation. Robert Solomon asked about doors swinging into the changing rooms, and would there be a push button to exit? The designer, Tom, said there would be an automatic door opener at the entrance and that possibly power assists on some interior doors, which has not been determined yet. Jini asked about the different options to get in and out of the pool independently and accessibly for a person with a disability, and Tom assured that all of the 2010 ADA accessibility standards would be applied here. During general swim there will be room for some lap lanes as well as the diving board open. If you would like to send any further comments, feedback, or ideas, the project webpage is: GathPool@newtonma.gov.

7. Parks Accessibility Inventory Q&A (7:20-7:35)

Luis stayed on to answer any questions members might have regarding the accessibility assessment PRC conducted for the current (2020-2027) Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). Ima wanted to know whether NECP was going to bring over the play equipment they now have at Aquinas to their new school in the fall. Luis said that NECP would be moving their play equipment with them. Jini asked if there is a playground connected with Albemarle Park, and Luis said yes, and that it would be contiguous to the NECP playground, but he was not sure if one can go from one playground to the other. Barbara hopes that there will be more perimeter pathways around our parks for exercise and to be out in the fresh air and be able to navigate the parks. Luis said more perimeter pathways are in the works, especially around some of our parks with ball fields, so that both spectators to a game and dog walkers with disabilities will be able to travel on a stone dust or asphalt pathways. Ima had been involved in the NECP playground at the Ed Center and at Aquinas and she hopes that not only will the surface be poured in place rubber but that the design of the equipment provides ramps to activities on an upper level, instead of going nowhere. Commissioner Banks confirmed that the new NECP playground at the former Horace Mann School will be the rubber surface and she would like the COD's input as the parks and schools get renovated and playgrounds are upgraded.

8. Content Review of Draft Letter to Newton Historic (7:35-7:50)

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

COD members received the draft of a letter, in advance of tonight's meeting, to review and to suggest any edits to it, before it is sent to the Newton Historical Commission supporting new construction for the NewCAL project. This draft letter can be found on pages 22-24. Rob commented that it was a well laid out letter, well written and made excellent points, and after reading this letter, he has changed his vote from last month's meeting, and now supports new construction for the new Senior Center (NewCAL). Since there were no further comments, Jane made a motion to approve the content of the letter and, as already voted last month, to send it to the Newton Historical Commission. Rob seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0-1 (Lucie abstained).

9. Treasurer's Report (7:50-7:55)

Jane gave the Treasurer's Report. She said there have been no changes in the past month. This report can be found on page 25.

10. ADA Coordinator's Report (7:55-8:00)

Jini gave her report of ADA activities for the past month. She wanted to remind everyone of the confirmed dates and times for the Community Access Monitor (CAM) Training offered by MOD to COD members and the wider community interested and active in accessibility. Soon she will be opening it up to Newton city staff, so please let her know if you want to attend. It is free and will be June 8 and June 15, from 9am to 2pm, both days. You, the Newton COD, are the hosts of this training and have first choice to be given a place at the training. It is virtual, materials will be emailed in advance. Rob asked about the Signage Webinar she attended (virtually), asking if there was anything new. Jini said not that was pointed out but she did not compare with the older AAB rules and regulations. She also mentioned that at last month's Traffic Council meeting, voted to add another van accessible parking space in the Triangle municipal parking lot and where that will be located. This additional parking space is required by ADA regs. Coming up this week, on Thursday, March 17, an office building owner requested an accessible on-street parking space at 580 Washington St. in Newtonville/Newton Corner. I hope there is no opposition, so please attend if interested. Her report can be found on page 26.

11. Subcommittee Updates (8:00-8:30)

A) "Newton Wellesley Hospital"

Sandra reported on the March quarterly meeting with NWH staff and subcommittee members, which had low attendance. The Facilities Director was unable to attend but sent some answers to questions, especially about the West entrance driveway. The paint and post mitigation doesn't work during the winter when the posts are removed for snow plowing, so the subcommittee want more signs to make crossing that driveway safer. One update is that the lower parking lot will improve access to the sidewalk for the accessible parking spaces. They said their accessible equipment inventory was completed and have accessible X-Ray tables. Jini asked about other areas, such as MRI and Mammogram machines, and they will get back to us. They are exploring how to inform the various physician offices and practices as to ADA

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Title III obligations, some are leased and some are suites that are owned by the practice. Many of the offices are not accessible, including at least one of the Audiology suites, many have waiting rooms and exam rooms too small for a patient who uses a wheelchair. Sandra asked if anyone has stories to share either tonight or to Sandra later, as to experiencing these small offices or inaccessible testing equipment or exam tables. Many do not have adjustable exam tables within these private practice suites, as well. Nancy also commented that we would like these practices to post who to contact if they have any accessibility issues, whether it be the owner of one of the condo-type suites or rented from the hospital.

B) “Funding for the Benefit of People with Disabilities”

Rob reported on the Funding subcommittee, of which he is the Chair. Most of the February 28 meeting was to recommend projects for potential ARPA funds. Rob and Jini put together a spreadsheet of projects with cost estimates (see table on pages 27 and 28) to present to the COD tonight to vote on and send to the Mayor. Many of the 11 projects were CDBG projects that were not funded or their cost was much higher than the CDBG allocation. One item was from the CIP, which was the sidewalks. There were other issues, such as improving the acoustics in the War Memorial Auditorium. Rob and Jini will be exploring what has been done there in recent years, besides the purchase of Assistive Listening Devices before considering it for a project. Hattie offered to set up an in-person meeting with IT at some point soon. Rob made a motion that the COD support the 11 projects and their cost estimates on the spreadsheet sent in advance, be sent to the Mayor for ARPA funding. Lucie seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0 -1 (Eileen was having technology difficulties so she abstained when she reconnected). The total for the 11 projects was just over \$1.4M and Jini explained where the estimates came from for the accessible GrassMats and for Phase II of the Marty Sender Trail. Rob said that the subcommittee will be exploring more programs and services in their upcoming meetings, next one is March 29, at 3:30PM.

C) “Spotlight on Mental Health”

Eileen reported that the Mental Health Subcommittee meeting in February was poorly attended, not even a quorum of members, and no public, either. She asked where do we go from here, as she cannot Chair this subcommittee meeting anymore and also be the Co-Chair of the COD. Unless someone steps forward, she feels that perhaps the main COD meeting can bring forth events and make decisions at the COD’s monthly meeting. If some details need to be investigated, maybe one or 2 members would volunteer and then bring all decisions/votes back to the entire COD. This would mean suspending the Subcommittee at this point. Jane made a motion to suspend the Mental Health Subcommittee, and Barbara seconded it. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0 (Nancy was also having technical difficulties and was not able to register her vote.

12. Adjournment (8:30)

The meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 11, 2022

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

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.

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Reports & Materials:

March 2022 CDBG Project Report_Final.pdf

Newton Commission on Disability

CDBG Access Projects Report

March 14th, 2022

FY21 Curb Cuts – (CD21-03C; Budget: \$84,043.00; Expended: \$80,000; Balance: \$4,043.00)

Installation of curb cuts at the following intersections: Watertown Street/West Street and Watertown Street/Edinboro Street. Signed invoices have been

received. Close-out will be completed upon disbursement of funds. Remainder on funds will be transferred into the FY23 Langley/Warren/Chase Crossing project.

Phase I Marty Sender Pathway Installation – (CD21-03A; Budget: \$66,847.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$66,847.00)

Reconstruction of the Marty Sender Path with an accessible route, covering approximately ¼ mile of the route. Jini, PRC staff, and Planning staff met with

contractor from Belko to discuss paperwork requirements and potential timeline of project. Contractor is familiar with Davis-Bacon requirements and start

date is expected to be April/May (probably mid-April). Weather permitting, the entire project will likely take 2-4 weeks from start date.

FY22 McGrath Park Perimeter Path Installation – (CD22-03A; Budget: \$91,300.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$91,300.00)

Constructing an accessible perimeter path around Richard McGrath Park. PRC has finalized a contract with CDM Smith Inc., to be the designer architect for

this project.

FY23 Langley/Warren/Chase Crossing –

Installation of accessible crossings at Langley Rd. and Warren St. This includes a bump out on the northeast corner of the intersection to create the space

needed to install a curb cut to cross Warren St. Planning staff has collected demographic information at this location for the FY23 Annual Action Plan.

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Commission On Disability

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

February 2022

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	15
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 3,000.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,200.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 1,000.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	14
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 2,800.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,200.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 800.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

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

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Commission On Disability

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2022

As of February 28th, 2022

FY 2022 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	101
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 20,200.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 5,400.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 12,000.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 2,800.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	70
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 14,000.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 3,800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 8,200.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 2,000.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	31
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 6,200.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 1,600.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 3,800.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 800.00

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

D Branch 4 Station Accessibility Newton Commission on Disability.pdf
D Branch Station Accessibility Improvements Waban, Eliot, Chestnut Hill
Newton Commission on Disability Monday, March 14, 2022

4

A close-up of a map

Description automatically generated with low confidence

6

7

Who are our stakeholders?

3

4

5

6

Ride Safer

Wear a face covering when riding public transit

SAFETY MOMENT

10

Waban Station

Station bench and signage

4

5

A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Upgrading critical infrastructure will help improve safety, enhance accessibility, increase capacity, and modernize the rider experience on the Green Line

Green Line Transformation | Introduction

9

Project Manager

11

12

Senior Director

14

Deputy Chief

Ben Weinstein

Andres Achury

Desiree Patrice

D Branch | Project Map

D:\Don\Dropbox\UIL - MBTA - GLT Greenline Stations PMCM - Mott

McDonald\Design\Corridor Bases\MBTA_GLT_OVERALL_2.jpg

4

D

6

7

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Commission On Disability

8
9
10
11
12
NEWTON
BROOKLINE
BOSTON
16
B
18
C
20
E
Waban
Eliot
ChestnutHill
Beaconsfield
Riverside
Woodland
Waban
Eliot
Newton Highlands
Newton Centre
ChestnutHill
Reservoir
Beaconsfield
Brookline Hills
Brookline Village
Longwood
Fenway
D
Winter 2022
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
Interim Accessibility 2019
51
52

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Commission On Disability

53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90

**Upgrade four (4) D Branch stations accessibility by:
list of 6 items**

- Raising the platform heights to 8 inches above top-of-rail**
- Extending the raised platform length to 225 feet**
- Adding accessible pathways and 2nd egress from each platform**
- Increasing lighting levels**
- New Emergency Call Boxes on each platform**

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

•New Signagethru station areas

list end

D Branch Station Accessibility Improvements |Project Overview

4

A picture containing sky, outdoor, tree, people

Description automatically generated

list of 2 items

•Only middle door is low floor

•Bridge plate accessible with operator assistance

list end

list of 2 items

•Only middle door is low floor

•Bridge plate accessible with operator assistance

list end

list of 3 items

•No low floor entrances

•Requires mobile lift for accessibility (if available)

•Paired with Type 8

list end

A picture containing bus, transport, outdoor, green

Description automatically generated

A picture containing text, platform, train, stopped

Description automatically generated

A picture containing bus, transport, outdoor, train

Description automatically generated

Fleet Overview | Existing Trains

Type 7: Vehicle Entrance

Type 8: Vehicle Entrance

Icon

Description automatically generated

Diagram

Description automatically generated

13

Type 9: Vehicle Entrance

15

A picture containing logo

Description automatically generated

Type 7 Retirement

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Commission On Disability

3

Type 8 Retirement

5

Accessible Stations | Short-term and Long-term Improvements

7

Short-term Station Accessibility Improvements

Completed Construction

list of 2 items

B Branch Station Consolidation

Brookline Hills High School Expansion

list end

In Design

list of 4 items

• **D Branch Station Accessibility Improvements**

• **Newton Highlands Accessibility Improvements**

• **Symphony Station Accessibility Improvements**

• **Hynes Station Accessibility Improvements**

list end

Planning

list of 1 items

• **B and C Branch Interim Station Accessibility Improvements**

list end

9

table with 12 columns and 2 rows

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

2028

2029

2030

2031

Supercar (Type 10)

table end

Design

Pilot

Rollout

Procurement

15

Long-term Vehicle Improvements: Type 10 Supercar

Type 10 Supercar: conceptual rendering

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Project Overview | Existing Conditions

Lack of detectable warning strip; irregular platform surface

Existing shelters to be raised

Existing signs need to be replaced and new signs added; improved seating and better illumination needed

Station bench and signage

Shelter at station

Station platform with warning strip

2

Chestnut Hill Station | Improvements

A high angle view of a parking lot

Description automatically generated with low confidence

2

Eliot Station | Improvements

4

2

Waban Station | Improvements

4

Safety and Security | Improvements

3

4

Emergency Call Boxes

Placed on each platform

New Lighting

Platforms, Walkways & Parking

7

8

Text

Description automatically generated

Waban Station

Project Timeline

list of 4 items

75% Public Meeting Summer 2022

100% Public Meeting Fall 2022

Bid Winter 2022

Construction Early Spring 2023

list end

Next Steps | Advancing Designs

5

Eliot Station

D Branch | Customer and Community Engagement

How to Stay Connected

list of 4 items

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Contact the project team: GLT@mbta.com

Subscribe to alerts:

mbta.com/alerts

Subscribe to Green Line Transformation weekly email updates: mbta.com/GLT

Check website for up-to-date information: www.mbta.com/projects/d-branch-station-accessibility-improvements

list end

5

A picture containing sky, outdoor, tree, people

Description automatically generated

Who are our stakeholders?

3

A sign on the side of a road

Description generated with very high confidence

6

7

8

MBTA.COM/GLT | GLT@MBTA.COM

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Gath Pool COD_031422_REV.pdf
GATH POOL PROJECT
City of Newton
Commission on Disability
March 14th, 2022

3

4

5

REVISTING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

list of 10 items

- Maintain and Activate More Green Space Around the Pool
- Improve Entry and Arrival Sequence
- Improve Experience for User Groups, Including Recreational and Competitive Swim
- Universal Access To Facility and All Pools
- Provide Leisure and Play Areas for Pool Patrons
- Create Flexible Pool Spaces For Different User Groups to Use the Pool at the Same Time
- Improve Operating Productivity by Eliminating Water Loss and Increasing Energy Efficiency
- Evaluate Bathhouse to Improve Overall Guest Experience
- Address Code, Accessibility, and Interior Upgrades
- Provide Improved Opportunities for Shade Structures and Sunbathing Areas

list end

2

Entry Landing

BATHHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS -GUEST PROGRAM AND CIRCULATION

Gender-Neutral Restrooms –Access from Deck

Women’s Bathroom + Lockers

Men’s Bathroom + Lockers

Pool Deck Flush with Building

Pool Deck Flush with Building

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

Staff Space

22

Reception

2

BATHHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS -STAFF PROGRAM AND CIRCULATION

Pool Deck Flush with Building

Pool Deck Flush with Building

Staff Space

7

8

9

10

11

Stor.

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

13

14

15

Entry Landing

Reception

BATHHOUSE

Public Use Lockers

4

Shower/Changing Stalls

6

7

Daylighting/Durable Finishes

9

Efficient Staff, Lifeguard and First Aid Space

11

Changing Tables

aquatic access wheelchair

Waterproof Wheelchair

2

A group of people at a water park

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

4

A group of people at a beach

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

POOL

Zero Entry

Accessible Ramp into Pool

Home Pool Use Pool Lift Without Battery Or Electricity Pool Lift - Buy Pool Lift,Swimming Pool Lift,Pool Lift Product on Alibaba.com

Permanent Pool Lift

BATHHOUSE AND POOL FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK

list of 4 items

Restrooms:

list of 2 items nesting level 1

oGrab bars need to be clearly and carefully laid out

oDoors on shower stalls –No curtains

list end nesting level 1

Wheelchair:

list of 4 items nesting level 1

oAvailable for use from changing room to pool

oRolls and maneuvers easily

oSafety belt

oCan get wet

list end nesting level 1

Changing room:

list of 2 items nesting level 1

oAdjustable bench/table

oPool-ready wheelchair available for use

list end nesting level 1

Pool Lift:

list of 4 items nesting level 1

oReady for independent use

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

- oEase of use by single person
- oProper staff training
- oReadily available equipment w/o locks or other barriers (batteries and other ancillary equipment)
- list end nesting level 1
- list end
- list of 4 items
- Storage:
 - list of 2 items nesting level 1
 - oFor pool wheelchairs on site
 - oFor guest personal chairs and other equipment
 - list end nesting level 1
- Splash pad:
 - list of 2 items nesting level 1
 - oWaterproof chair for use in the splash pad (Electric/Non-electric)
 - oDirect ramps that lead directly to the splash pad –no turns
 - list end nesting level 1
- Water Slide:
 - list of 2 items nesting level 1
 - oProvide options for people with disabilities
 - oPlace on Community Pool side
 - list end nesting level 1
- Connected/separate pools:
 - list of 1 items nesting level 1
 - oPrefer multiple means of accessible entry for all swim areas. Makes connector advantageous (1 lift, 1 ramp) witheasier transfer between pools
 - list end nesting level 1
 - list end
- Diagram, engineering drawing

Description automatically generated

OPTION 1 –PROGRAM + CIRCULATION

Café Seating

Splash Pad

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

Zero Depth

PT/ Walking

18

EGRESS/ SWIM MEET ENTRY AND EXIT

20

WATER SLIDE LOCATION TBD

DIVING BOARD LOCATION TBD

POTENTIAL PERM. LIFT LOCATION

Seating

Seating

26

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Wheelchair access with solid fill

28

29

30

31

32

Accessible Terraced Seating

Diagram

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

OPTION 1 –COMBINED POOLS: ZERO DEPTH ON BUILDING SIDE

OPTION 2 –PROGRAM + CIRCULATION

Diagram, engineering drawing

Description automatically generated

Café Seating

Splash Pad

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

Zero Depth

PT/ Walking

17

EGRESS/ SWIM MEET ENTRY AND EXIT

19

WATER SLIDE LOCATION TBD

21

DIVING BOARD LOCATION TBD

23

POTENTIAL PERM. LIFT LOCATION

25

26

Seating

Seating

29

Wheelchair access with solid fill

31

32

33

Accessible Terraced Seating

A picture containing text

Description automatically generated

OPTION 2 -ZERO DEPTH ON BUILDING SIDE

EXISTING & PROPOSED CONDITION OVERLAY

A picture containing diagram

Description automatically generated

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

ALBEMARLE ROAD
Existing Pool Deck Footprint
6
Existing Pool Footprint
8

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Dear Mr. Dimond and members of the Newton Historic Commission,

We write regarding the pending request to landmark the current Senior Center, the former Newtonville Library, at 345 Walnut Street in Newtonville. This site is currently the proposed site for the NewCal project, Newton's new Senior Center. We support the proposal for new construction for the new Senior Center on this site and believe that it is the best way to have a truly accessible and welcoming space for Newton's seniors.

By state law (MGL Chapter 40, Section 8J), the Commission On Disability has the responsibility to “, *to cause the full integration and participation of people with disabilities in such city or town.*”

In addition we are to, “*review and make recommendations about policies, procedures, services, activities and facilities of departments, boards and agencies of said city or town as they affect people with disabilities in such city or town.*”

We write not only representing the 15% of Newtonians with physical disabilities but the population at large which may from time to time be temporarily disabled on crutches, possess mobility challenges, or push a stroller with young children.

There is an inherent conflict between the laudable desire to preserve buildings of historic importance, and renovation to make older buildings accessible and fully usable by all residents. It is a common misconception that historic or landmarked buildings are exempt from the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, commonly known as the ADA. but in fact the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. Subtitle A of Title II of the ADA is implemented by 28 CFR, Part 35. Subtitle A protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability in the services, programs, or activities of all state and local governments.

Unlike Title III of the ADA, which requires public accommodations to remove architectural barriers where such removal is "readily achievable," or to provide goods and services through alternative methods, where those methods are "readily achievable," title II requires a public entity to make its programs accessible in all cases, except where to do so would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program or in undue financial and administrative burdens.

We ask that, as you consider whether the building at 345 Walnut St. should be landmarked, you also carefully consider the disadvantages of trying to renovate the existing building, and the advantages of the proposed new construction of the senior center on this site. Newton truly needs a fully accessible and welcoming senior center for the next 100 years of Newton's civic life. We ask that you think first about the people whom the new Senior Center is being designed to serve – and the building must meet the needs of all people, without compromising the program because of an existing building. Nearly 25% of adults have some form of a disability, 40% of older adults aged 65-79 have mobility challenges, and 71% of people over the age of 80 have mobility challenges (from the CDC). Over the

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

life of this building millions of users, representing a majority of the patrons, will have some form of disability or mobility challenge. The senior center is a public building and as such it must be designed to meet the needs of all the public.

We understand that the NewCal working group studied a variety of options for a new Senior Center which included making a choice between renovating the existing building with additions for needed program space, the so-called “add/reno” option versus demolishing the existing building. We have studied the findings of the group. We have learned that there were several design considerations regarding the add/reno but we want to focus on the accessibility concerns. The addition and renovation options that were studied and presented were soundly rejected by the Council on Aging, Design Review Committee, the NewCAL Working Group, and the majority of the Commission On Disability and City Council, **because the modifications to the existing building that would have been required would have so significantly modified the existing façade that the potential end product was not something that people felt would be attractive or appropriate.**

The Commission on Disability has seen firsthand the difficulties that are faced by many owners of older properties, who are trying to make their buildings fully accessible. It is a very difficult job to bring an older building to full accessibility that is age-friendly and barrier free, and often it is not truly possible to fully meet these criteria. We believe that this would be the case for the new Senior Center in the “add/reno” scenario, and we will detail our reasons below.

We want to specifically focus your attention on the following:

- The main entrance to the 345 Walnut St. building is currently completely inaccessible. After entering the main entrance, you are met with several other inaccessible elevation changes as the main floor sits 3 feet above the main entrance level, and 6 feet above the exterior grade.
- The interior of the building has vertical accessibility with an elevator to the basement, at grade, and main floor, but has inaccessible paths of travel throughout the building due to the building having 3 mezzanines
- The main entrance would need to be raised ~3 feet to align with the main floor, the windows would all need to be lowered 6 feet to make them functional and usable by people with disabilities, and extremely large exterior switchback ramp would be needed which would meet the accessibility requirements. Even with these modifications, the entrance would present a very significant barrier for people with disabilities. Imagine trying to navigate a wheelchair or walker up a ramp of more than 80 feet, with at least two switchbacks, in any weather, just to enter the building, and you will understand the problem. An interior ramp is not possible, and an exterior ramp would be unattractive and would detract from the character of the building.
- The modifications to the interior and exterior needed to simply make this building slightly more accessible and welcoming would completely degrade the historical façade and modify a great deal of the original building. Unfortunately, if Newton at-

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

tempted to make the current building a usable, fully accessible public asset, the result would leave almost nothing remaining of the original appearance.

The proposed new construction design clearly references the current building and its cupola, and is consistent with the neighborhood. Important elements are planned to be preserved, restored, and reinstalled from the existing building, including the beautiful stained glass medallions from the windows at the north and south ends of the reading room, designed by Charles Jay Connick. The proposed new building respects the original building's history, and at the same time it is a far superior building in function for the people who will be served.

When the Newtonville Library was dedicated in 1939, the poet Robert Frost attended, and read from his poem Mending Wall. The following lines from the poem are worth considering as we discuss the building's future:

*Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out
And to whom I was like to give offense*

A Senior Center that is not fully accessible to all is essentially walling out those with mobility challenges, and this is unacceptable in Newton in 2022. We therefore respectfully ask you to not landmark this building. We ask that you think about people and their needs, potentially any of us as we age in Newton, and hold them at the highest priority.

Sincerely,

Anne Marie Killilea and Eileen Sandberg
Co-Chairs
Newton Commission On Disability

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Treasurer's Report

Given by Jane Brown, Treasurer of the Newton Commission On Disability (COD)

Presented at the March 14, 2022 Newton COD Meeting

As of February 28, 2022, the balances of the COD accounts have not changed since January 31, 2022, 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: \$58036.60

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**

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator

Presented at the March 14, 2022, Newton Commission On Disability meeting for the month of February.

Site Visits:

- None

Trainings:

- ADA Webinar: Accessible Signage
- Webinar: Best Practices for Inclusive Recreational Programs
- Webinar: Intersection of Race and Disability

Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- Newton Historic- attended 2/24 meeting with NewCAL update on agenda
- Land Use Committee- Dunkin Drive Through proposal
- Meeting with PRC & consultants for Crystal Lake Park
- Meeting with PRC & consultants for Albemarle fields and amenities
- Traffic Council- AP5-21 Additional van-accessible parking space in Langley lot
- 2 Subcommittee Meetings-MH and Funding
- Meeting with contractor for Marty Sender Phase I with Planning
- Housing Partnership- attended meeting with Armory Add/Reno on agenda
- DRT- West Newton Armory renovation for housing
- Northland Working Group Meetings
- NewCAL-Attend bi-weekly Working Group meetings
- NewCAL community meeting
- Fair Housing Committee- attend monthly meetings
- West Newton Streetscape- attend monthly meeting
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- attend bi-weekly meetings
- Commissions On Disability Alliance Monthly Meeting

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Commission On Disability

ARPA Funding

Infrastructure	Scope and Notes	Est
Beacon St. / Sumner St. / Langley Rd.	12 Curb Ramps	\$
Beacon St. from Washington St. to Angier School		\$
Chapel St. / Watertown St.	Reconstruction of existing curb cuts to give them correct orientation. Scope is subject to change as there are under and above ground utilities, basements, and traffic relocations that need to be considered that would add to the potential cost.	\$
Walnut St. / Dexter Rd.	Phase II of improvements. Includes bump outs on both sides of Dexter Rd. and three total curb cuts.	\$
City Hall Campus	Two curb cuts should be added to connect folks to the accessible elevator entrance near the Department Head parking lot. Scope would include painting the crosswalk.	\$
Centre St. / Trowbridge St.	Reconstruction of curb cuts to bring them into compliance, including the addition of a continental crosswalk.	\$

Public Buildings	Scope and Notes	Est
Waban Library Accessible Restroom	Create accessible toilet room on main floor	\$

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Commission On Disability

Auburndale Library Accessible Restroom	Create an accessible toilet room on main floor	\$
--	--	----

Parks	Scope and Notes	Est
Phase II of the Marty Sender Trail	Mass Trails Grant applied for	\$
Accessible Mats for 4 Play Structures	Auburndale Cove(2), Davis, Williams	\$

Sidewalks	Annual DPW (in house crews, material costs)	\$
	Total	\$1