



# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

**Meeting Date:** October 17, 2022

### MINUTES

#### Room Zoom

**Time: 6:00PM**

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

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84610100556?pwd=L2FuS2Rsem1UDlNeGIHOEpdnJ6QT09>

Meeting ID: 846 1010 0556

Passcode: 279296

#### One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84610100556# US (Washington D.C)

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#### Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 846 1010 0556

Passcode: 279296

#### Commission Members Present:

Eileen Sandberg, Co-Chair, participating remotely

Anne Marie Killilea, Co-Chair, participating remotely

Jane Brown, Treasurer, participating remotely

Lucie Chansky, participating remotely

Ima Jonsdottir, participating remotely

Nancy Kritzman, participating remotely

Sandra Lingley, participating remotely

Matt Volpi, participating remotely

#### Members Absent:

Barbara Lischinsky

Lakshmi Kadambi

Darby Leigh

#### Staff:

Jini Fairley, ADA/504 Coordinator, participating remotely

Nika Sandal, Planning

Sgt. Mike Wade, Police

Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Mayor's Office

Barney Heath, Planning Director

Amanda Berman, Planning

#### Applicants and Guests:

Nyree Kibarian

Petr Chovanec

Councilor Downs

Rob Caruso

Girard Plante

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

At the start of the meeting, a quorum was met. Lucie mentioned that she would have to leave at 6:55.

### 2. Approval of the September 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes (6:05-6:10)

Eileen asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes for the September COD meeting. Hearing none, Lucie made a motion to accept the minutes as drafted, including the sentence change suggested by her for the 2022 ADA/504

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

Lucie Chansky

Ima Jonsdottir

Lakshmi Kadambi

Nancy Kritzman

Darby Leigh

Sandra Lingley

Barbara Lischinsky

Matt Volpi

Jason Rosenberg  
Chairman Emeritus

#### Advisor

Sergeant Michael B. Wade  
Newton Police Department

#### Staff

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

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Newton, MA 02459  
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Transition Plan, which was clearly reported in these draft minutes. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0-2 (Anne Marie and Ima abstained).

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

Nika gave the CDBG report, which can be viewed on page 6. Nika mentioned that PRC is presenting to the Parks & Recreation Commission tonight and should have some news about McGrath next month.

**4. Vote on Top 3 for FY24 CDBG-Funded Access Projects (6:15-6:45)**

Nika presented the list of projects, both past and present recommendations from the COD, in order to choose 3 top projects to be vetted by DPW, Planning, and Jini, in order to have a vote for one of these 3 projects in January to receive FY24 CDBG funds. Nika said that other projects could be suggested at this meeting, as well. Councilor Downs commented that the intersection of Eddy and Eliot at Watertown is on Transportation's radar for a traffic calming project. Ima pointed out that there is no accessible parking space in the circle or on City Hall Drive, coming from Homer St. where the new crosswalk and curb ramps are being proposed. Nika and Jini explained some of the projects vetted last year and indicated that both the original plans for Bullough's Pond Rd. walkway on the pond side, and the intersections of Eddy/Eliot and Watertown may not be good candidates for a FY24 project. Eileen pointed out that ARPA funding of 3 infrastructure projects has limited the projects available and recommended by the COD last year and previously. Sandra suggested perhaps the locations previously suggested for RRFB systems could be considered as another project, especially crossing Washington St., near Temple Reyim and/or in Lower Falls at Concord. Sandra commented that in her research as to the use of RRFB systems, they are recommended for crossing 4 lanes of traffic, where previously DPW did not recommend any RRFB systems crossing more than 3 traffic lanes. After this discussion, 4 projects were recommended (City Hall crosswalk & 2 curb ramps on City Hall Drive, Watertown at Chapel intersection – curb ramps at 3 corners, Centre at Trowbridge- 2 curb ramps and crosswalk, and one RRFB system crossing Washington St. near Temple Reyim) and each member voted for their top project. At the end of this discussion, Lucie had to leave the meeting for a previous commitment. Here is the tally: City Hall Drive = 3 votes (Jane, Ima, Nancy), RRFB-near Temple Reyim = 2 votes (Eileen, Sandra) Chapel and Watertown = 1 vote (Matt), and Anne Marie a abstained, so those are the 3 top projects.

**5. Accessible Fines Reports (6:45-6:50)**

Sgt. Wade gave the 2 Fines reports, activity during the month of September and the fiscal year to date. These reports can be found on pages 7 and 8. Sgt. Wade asked the Commission members if they want to allocate some of the Fines funds for Operation Access, the targeted enforcement of accessible parking violations during the holiday season, from November 25 through December 26. After a brief discussion, Jane made a motion to expend \$7000 from the Fines Funds to pay overtime hours for the Operation Access program, that is, targeted enforcement of the accessible parking violations during the upcoming holidays, November 25-December 26, 2022. Sandra seconded the

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motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-1 (Anne Marie abstained). Sgt. Wade and Jini will begin the paperwork. Sgt. Wade also announced that there is a new Captain of the Traffic Bureau, Captain Damien Doucette, as Captain Boudreau has joined the Detective Division of the Police Department.

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

Jane, Treasurer of the COD, said there were no changes to the balances of the COD accounts since last month. Her full report can be viewed on page 9.

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

Jini gave her ADA activities report, which can be found on page 10. Much time was spent on the ADA/504 Transition Plan, and she announced that the Public Participation meeting will be on Thursday, October 27, at 6PM. She had no site visits and only a few webinar trainings, but many meetings listed on the report. She did not apply for the MOD grant this year, as final preparations for the Transition Plan came at the same time to write the grant. She and the COD had been leaning towards installation of RRFBs, but MOD did not choose that request a couple of years ago. Next summer, there will hopefully be more time and more suggestions as to which project to apply for. Jini also mentioned items on the October 27 Traffic Council regarding one residential accessible parking space (postponed from last Feb/March) and one in the West Newton commercial area on Elm St., held in July. Jini will be sending an email about her support of both these parking spaces but she will not be able to participate as it is the same evening as the public ADA/504 Transition Plan.

**8. October 27 Public Meeting on Newton's 2022 ADA/504 Transition Plan (7:00-7:05)**

Jini invited all to attend the public meeting of the 2022 ADA/504 Transition Plan review. It will be at 6PM. The plan has some minor edits since the COD reviewed it and will be released to all those who registered for this meeting, on or after October 21.

**9. Harvest Fair Update (7:05-7:15)**

Eileen gave an update on the COD's table and tent at the Harvest Fair yesterday, from 11am to 4pm. Eileen brought all the supplies, table, tent, chairs, and materials, including COD brochure, Service Dogs pamphlet, give aways (cold packs), some Halloween stickers and a big bowl of candy! She said that Jini, Jane, Sandra, Barbara, and Ima joined her for most of the afternoon from 1:30 to about 4:30. She said the busiest time was at the beginning where all the cold packs were given out, and she recommends a new give away with COD info on it and a banner so that folks can find us from a distance.

**10. Update on Mental Health Event (7:15-7:20)**

Eileen reported that Hattie was able to reserve the Newton North theater/auditorium for the May 7 Me2 Orchestra concert, to be held in the mid to late afternoon.

**11. COD Membership Update (7:20-8:00 )**

- **Rob's Commendation**

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- Nyree Kibarian- New Member
- Ima Jonsdottir- New Member

Eileen update all regarding 2 applicants who are now members, Ima Jonsdottir (took oath/signed book) and Nyree Kibarian (will get to City Hall next week for Oath and Book signing). Petr Chovanec has been interviewed by the Programs & Services Council Committee and soon to be voted in by the full Council. All 3 new COD members will introduce themselves next month. Eileen then announced that Rob was not re-appointed to the COD, a long time and dedicated member, serving since 1995. Eileen read the commendation the Mayor sent him. This commendation can be viewed on page 11. Eileen added her admiration and gratitude for all that Rob has accomplished as a member and Co-Chair 12 years, and all could not fit on one page. She thanked Rob for all the accessibility improvements throughout the city which have benefitted residents and visitors now and into the future. Jini also thanked Rob and Girard for their tireless advocacy. They were instrumental in the city hiring the first half time ADA/504 Coordinator and the first full-time ADA/504 Coordinator, a rare position in the state, most are not full-time. She hopes both Rob and Girard will continue to bring accessibility issues to the COD's attention and to her attention. She offered to send the agenda to Rob, and he said that he would like that. Rob thanked Eileen and Jini and told the members, especially the new members to speak up, ask questions, and keep advocating, that change is sometimes messy but necessary, in order to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

### 12. Funding & NWH Subcommittee, & ARPA Updates (8:00-8:15)

Sandra announced that the next quarterly meeting of the Newton Wellesley Hospital Subcommittee will be held on Friday, October 28, at 1PM. She encouraged members to attend this meeting, they don't have to be members of the subcommittee in order to participate in the meeting. Besides ongoing access issues outside the facility but on their campus, the agenda will focus on signage and wayfinding. Sandra asked for any access issues members may be encountering at NWH should get those items to Sandra by early next week. Sandra gave an example of the lack of signage at NWH, even for those with vision, when she tried to find a testing lab and was sent all over the building by staff. Even staff want better signage, even a paper sign, but they know it will be taken down.

**ARPA funding:** The Funding COD Subcommittee, chaired by Rob, spearheaded the effort to put together projects to be funded by ARPA. This list, developed at the Funding Subcommittee meetings, was approved by the entire COD membership, and then sent on to the Mayor. Just recently, ARPA funds were granted to several of these projects, 3 are infrastructure projects (Curb ramps at Beacon/Sumner/Langley, Curb ramps at Dexter /Walnut, and Curb ramps, northside of Beacon from Washington and Angier School at several cross streets) and one project is making surfaces at 4 play structures accessible, 1 at a school (Williams) and 3 at park playgrounds (2 at Auburndale Cove and 1 at Davis Park). Ima commented that she is pleased with the Newton Centre Beacon/Sumner/Langley intersection will be improved, to be safer and more accessible for many students and adults who use mobility devices.

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#### 13. Discussion on Zoom only vs. Hybrid Meetings (8:15-8:30)

Jini explained what is changing, come March 2023, with regard to the Open Meeting Law. Due to Covid, every public body was allowed to be completely virtual, no public place needed to be available where the meeting was being held, and the quorum was virtual. For the COD, any member joining by phone or virtually has always been able to count that member(s) in the quorum, but by March 2023, the COD will need to have a public meeting place where the Chair/Co-Chair of the COD and staff would need to be present at the public meeting room. She also said that the conference rooms at City Hall will be able to have Hybrid meetings, Zoom and in person. This allows the public and some staff and COD members to be virtual to attend the meetings, once in person meetings are re-established. Comments from members covered the ease of accessibility to the virtual meetings, especially in the winter, we don't know what Covid will do once windows are closed during the colder weather, virtual is also convenient for parents when their presence at home is needed. Hattie said that some commissions are considering having at least 2 meetings a year where all members make an effort to come together in person, like spring and fall. For some, Zoom has also offered some more accessible features that will need to be considered when in person. Eileen asked if anyone was interested in returning to in person/hybrid before March. No one was interested, but a suggestion was made by Petr that the COD reconsiders when to begin in person meetings again in January. Eileen agreed to put that discussion on the agenda then.

#### 14. Adjournment (8:30)

The meeting adjourned early, at 8PM.

These draft minutes were prepared and submitted by Jini Fairley, staff to the COD

**NEXT MEETING DATE:            November 14, 2022**

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities requiring assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Sec.504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: [jfairley@newtonma.gov](mailto:jfairley@newtonma.gov) or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, please dial 711 or call City Hall's TTY/TDD line at 617-796-1089.

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### Reports and Materials:

October 2022 CDBG Report.pdf  
Newton Commission on Disability  
CDBG Access Projects Report  
October 17, 2022

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. The Marty Sender Pathway Installation has

been completed. This project including roughly 1250’ of pathway improvements to the trail to comply with ADA requirements. 3.5’ of existing surface cover

from areas within floodplain and resurface roughly 1185’ of existing trail. A total of 44.28 cubic yards of materials were removed and a total of 43.77

cubic yards of new surfacing was brought in. These improvements allow for safer and easier enjoyment of the trail/pathway for all.

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. Project is currently in the design phase.

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.

Planning staff to meet with DPW to conduct site visit during fall of 2022.

Reminder! During the October meeting, we will be voting on a top three projects for FY24.

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**CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Commission On Disability**

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**NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

**PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT**

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>\$ 9,200.00</b>
<b>REDUCTION AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ 2,600.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 2,200.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTSTANDING</b>	<b>\$ 4,400.00</b>

**CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS**

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 8,000.00</b>
<b>REDUCTION AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ 2,400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 2,200.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 3,400.00</b>

**CODE # 27 CURB CUTS**

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,200.00</b>
<b>REDUCTION AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>



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**CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Commission On Disability**

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**NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023

*As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

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**FY 2023 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals**

<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>\$ 22,800.00</b>
<b>REDUCTION AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ 10,200.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 7,600.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTSTANDING</b>	<b>\$ 6,200.00</b>

**CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS**

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 20,400.00</b>
<b>REDUCTION AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ 8,800.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 6,600.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>

**CODE # 27 CURB CUTS**

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 2,400.00</b>
<b>REDUCTION AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,200.00</b>



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### Treasurer's Report

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

Presented at the October 17, 2022 Newton COD Meeting

As of October 14, 2022, the balances have not changed since the report given at the September COD 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: \$38,499.60

Account # 01C40128 Set up to pay for RRFB at Langley/Warren/Chase intersection

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$18,000.00

Account # 01C60211 Set up to purchase accessible equipment for Burr School playground.

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$1,537.00

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: \$1,880.89

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 # 5064D103 Set up in Fall 2015 to receive Community Access Monitor Program fees and pay expenses)

Type: Revolving Account

Balance: \$29**0.00**

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### ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator

Presented at the October 17, 2022, Newton Commission On Disability meeting for activities during the month of September 2022.

**Site Visits:**

None, one got postponed

**Trainings:**

- CHAPA webinar- very informative
- Charles River Chamber of Commerce- Update on the Highland Ave, Needham and Needham & Winchester Sts. In Newton project

**Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:**

- Crystal Lake Park focus group
- Snow Routes meetings
- Marty Sender Greenway Community Meeting
- CIP meetings in September
- Crystal Lake Park Community Meeting
- Albemarle fields working group with consultant
- Crystal Lake Park Working Group with consultant
- OSRP Trails Committee
- OSRP Implementation Committee meeting
- NewCAL-Attend bi-weekly Working Group meetings
- NewCAL community meeting,
- Fair Housing Committee (FHC)- attend monthly meetings
- FHC Lottery/Lease-up Subcommittee monthly meetings
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- attend bi-weekly meetings
- Commissions On Disability Alliance Monthly Meetings

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**CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Commission On Disability**

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*Mayor's Commendation*  
*Robert Caruso*

*In recognition of Robert Caruso's long and dedicated service as a member of the City of Newton's Commission On Disability, I extend our gratitude and express our appreciation for his service to our community.*

*Rob served as a member of the Commission On Disability for 27 years and Co-chaired for 12 years.*

*As a long-standing member and for a number of years as Co-Chair of the commission, Rob helped set the agenda and became a force for long overdue accessibility changes across Newton. Rob contributed to the transformation of the 1974 Committee for People with Disabilities to what is now known as the Commission On Disability. Rob assisted with establishing the first full-time ADA position in the City of Newton. Rob continued to work tirelessly, such as bringing accessibility to the War Memorial in City Hall. The War Memorial project was funded by Capital Improvement Plan dollars and took eight months to complete and also included new sidewalks and accessible parking spaces. The*

*Commission On Disability made an enormous difference in accessibility to a frequently used public space. In 2017, Rob also headed the effort in the City Council Chambers receiving an accessible podium. Residents with disabilities or any person attending City Council meetings can easily speak before their body of government using an adjustable podium. As an active commissioner and advocate, Rob's community involvement has benefited both the public and private sector in countless ways.*

*In recognition of Newton resident Robert Caruso's achievements, his lifetime commitment as a leader in advocating for his community and people with disabilities, and his many years of service to the City of Newton, it is fitting and*

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**CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Commission On Disability**

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*proper that, on behalf of all residents of the City of Newton, I, Ruthanne fuller,  
express our admiration and deep gratitude.*

*September*

*27, 2022*

*Ruthanne fuller, Mayor*