

Minutes of
Commission on Disabilities Meeting
January 16, 2025

Virtual Format
Via Zoom

Disclosure: These minutes are not verbatim – they are the secretary's interpretation of what took place at the meeting. – Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A § 22. • These minutes are a record as accepted by the Commission on Disabilities.

Present

5 Members of the committee were present:

Paul McGee, Chairman

Frances Carney

Tzynya Pinchback

Lissa Conn

Heidi MacCurtain

Town Liaison

Emily Wilson, Assistant Commissioner of Health and Human Services

Absent

0 absent member(s) of the committee.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul McGee at 5:05 PM.

AGENDA ITEMS

Minutes

Approval of minutes from October 17, 2024.

Correspondence

Chairman Paul McGee reported no COD mail at Town Hall or home.

Accessibility

Improve accessibility to Town sponsored events. The Thanksgiving Day Parade is sponsored by America's Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration (AHTC) which is a separate 501(c)(3). Emily suggested the COD should meet with them to ensure there is an ADA track for attendees around parking and other related concerns. Offer solutions to the concerns about specific events. Emily can assist with Town sponsored events, but the COD would need to reach out to those sponsoring public events not facilitated by the Town. Put together an action plan to outline things that do not support those with accessibility limitations to attend. Offer recommendations that can address those concerns.

Scholarships

No current update.

Town Liaison

Emily Wilson, Assistant Commissioner of Health and Human Services, suggested backup Meeting Minute taker similar to having a backup host for the meetings. Lissa was identified as the backup host during the meeting. Once the Town Clerk sets up an account for Lissa, she will be able to facilitate the COD meeting if Emily is absent.

Emily was contacted by MassAbility, formerly known as Mass Rehabilitation Commission. They wish to attend the next Commission meeting to present information about what their agency does and hope to partner with the COD.

Emily reported a budget of \$350 was earmarked for the Commission for materials and supplies. It could be requested for purchasing items such as the plaque that was previously discussed by the Commission for the Poet Laureate for their work on the White Horse Beach mobi-mat dedication.

The plaque wording at Stephen's Field acknowledging the COD was corrected and will be reinstalled soon. Also, due to the timing of the park opening, limited plantings could be made. Moving forward, more plantings will be added to increase shade at the park.

2024 Beach Report to review beach accessibility features like the mobi-mat. Review the report and provide feedback. The Parks & Forestry and Recreation Departments were made aware of the concerns with the accessible bathroom at White Horse Beach not working often. Please keep them up to date real-time so they may address the issue in a timely manner.

The Town of Plymouth received \$250K from the MOD Municipality ADA Grant to assist in the restructuring of the Center for Active Living parking lot. This will allow for improved grading, access aisle, handrails and additional parking spots. All work being paid by the grant need to be completed by June 30, 2025.

The current COD grant balance per the Finance Office is \$84,515.15.

Letter of Support

N/A.

Old Business

Looking for an update on the construction for the walkway near the Jenny Grist Mill believed to be part of the "a trail for all" project. Emily will seek an update from Tiffany Park to see what is specifically being completed.

Mass Audubon is still interested in partnering with the Commission on Disability to support a "Get Out in Nature and Accessibility" event. Potential to have them join the meeting in March.

Public Comment

None.

Grant Requests

A request from the Town Clerk's Office was submitted looking for \$3,500 to support installing the Town Hall Office with an automatic door opener. The grant request was approved by the COD with all members in favor.

New Business

Accessibility to public events.

Next Meeting

February 20, 2025, at 5 PM – Virtual

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.