



**City of Newburyport  
Commission on Disabilities**

60 Pleasant St • PO Box 550 • Newburyport MA 01950  
[www.cityofnewburyport.com/commission-on-disabilities](http://www.cityofnewburyport.com/commission-on-disabilities)



**Important Notice:** This public meeting will be held online in accordance with an Executive Order issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020 to facilitate governmental functions where public gatherings are limited or prohibited by emergency declaration. For current meeting Zoom Link, please visit the City of Newburyport Public Meetings Calendar at [www.cityofnewburyport.com](http://www.cityofnewburyport.com)

**Thursday, January 11, 2024**

**5:30 pm - Meeting Minutes (noted in bolded font)**

**Present: Kristen Farrell, Sophie Korpics, , Debbie Campbell, Rich Traister, Omni Raimo  
Dennis Morel (ADA Coordinator),**

**Absent: Jacob Majahad, Councilor Jennie Donahue**

**Community Members: Lisa Rowan, Sondra Korman**

5:30pm: Attendance and guest(s) introduction

Public Comment and New Business

- a.) ADA Coordinator/Building Inspector position re-appointment – Dennis Morel, before Planning and Development Committee (City Council) 1/16/24 and 1/29/24. Can submit written letter of support and appreciation for continued opportunities to work with Dennis in his role as city ADA Coordinator.
- b.) Lisa: New potential idea/opportunity: for special events in the City and/or downtown areas, two possible ideas: (1.) allocation of designated Handicapped parking areas, somewhat centrally located to the main area of the event/happenings. To assist with patrons and participants with disabilities to not have to search around for HP spaces spread throughout the city. Can utilize temporary signage/cone/barrell/posts etc. potentially upon completion of the construction project at Waterfront Park? And (2.) for outdoor events like parades or holiday tree-lighting ceremonies, having a dedicated area for patrons needing a centralized access point and gathering/viewing spot. (For example, near the judging booths at the Yankee Homecoming parade). This would allow for guests with disabilities to not have to jockey for position along a parade route or in Market Square, etc.
- c.) Lisa: new professional venture, gathering information and data from community members about “accessibility at work”. Gathering concepts for a book writing collaboration.

Meeting Minutes Approval: *December 2023* **\*tabled until February**

ADA Coordinator Update

- a.) The Goat Restaurant: **lift structure continues to be constructed. It is substantial and will enclose the majority of the area traversed by the lift users. Certificate of Occupancy is not yet in place, still awaiting several other steps in the process involving other departments and requirements.**
- b.) Nu Kitchen – variance request/resident injury. **Main doorway entrance was a tripping hazard due to the height of the interior step at threshold entry. Business owner elected to fix the problem, which was less complicated than requesting a variance through the MAAB.**
- c.) Anna Jacques Hospital: **sidewalk at left side of ramp access being smoothed out after damage from frost heaves.**

City Council Update (**none**)

## Budget Update and Handicapped Parking Quarterly totals (Q2FY24)

- a.) Quarterly Handicapped parking violations totaled 80 for Oct/Nov/Dec (just shy of \$17,000 of paid violations)
- b.) Bank account is roughly \$75k
- c.) More data and community outreach is needed regarding understanding why people continue to park illegally, despite having to pay \$300 per violation

## Old Business:

- a.) Bartlet Mall Playground status update (**none**)
- b.) Pioneer Field/Lower Atkinson Playground update (**none**)
- c.) CODA Updates/Statewide COD MOD Meeting (Kristen/Sophie) **Sophie's first CODA meeting, introductions and learning about other municipalities and happenings. Other municipalities have also not heard about any procedural updates from the MOD Grant awards.**
- d.) DPS Current Project correspondance (**no update**)
- e.) DEI Alliance updates (Sophie)
  - i. **Fellowship survey being approved by the IRB at UMass for Sophie's project**
  - ii. **Movie screening planning needed at February NCOD meeting, especially to choose a date for the screening.**
- f.) Materials and Public correspondence:
  - i. Need one-pager information share about Handicapped Parking (**Kristen to share with Omni**)
  - ii. Need updated flyer for general NCOD information and resources
- g.) Subcommittee updates:
  - i. Access Navigators website updates (Lisa/Sondra) : **met with Anne from Access Navigators, currently have removed most of the no longer present restaurants or establishments. Further updates needed for newer venues, and additional accessibility features gathered for addition to the online site.**
    - a. **Kristen: new App recently featured on Chronicle (Boston TV). "Ahoi", an accessibility App for users to input their own data regarding accessible features. Could we use our info from Access Navigators for posting to the Ahoi App as well?**
  - ii. **Note: Ted Talk Portsmouth, with Todd Hanson (architect and creator of Access Navigators) telling his own story.**  
**[https://youtu.be/x-zU6\\_YZOc8?si=q1LWI5MsVwGwZshG](https://youtu.be/x-zU6_YZOc8?si=q1LWI5MsVwGwZshG)**
  - iii. Community Outreach and events (**Events Spring 2024?**)
  - iv. Website content
    - a. Monthly meeting January 18 (Kristen/Sophie/Dennis)
  - v. Scholarship fund/committee – FEBRUARY: info needs and school contacts
  - vi. Social Media or Media updates (none) **Daily News connection/recurring collaboration? "As I see It", regarding something related to accessibility in Newburyport, and/or other article features?**
  - vii. Other Special Projects: **Consulting in search for Director of Pupil Services Screening Committee, Kristen as NCOD Co-Chair, Parent, and SEPAC member**

7:00pm: Meeting adjourns Motion [Debbie], Second [Omni], Approved [Roll Call Vote: ALL=Yes] 6:55pm  
*Next meeting: February 8, 2024 (5:30 to 7:00pm)*