



The TOWN OF NORWOOD

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Commission on Disability Meeting December 21, 2023 Minutes of Meeting

The meeting of the Commission on Disability (COD) was held at 4:00pm on Thursday, December 21, 2023, virtually using Google Meet Software. Attending the meeting were Sarah Quinn, Jim West, Christine Diaz, and Peter McFarland. Also in attendance was Michael Rosen.

The meeting was called to order at 4:09pm.

Agenda items for discussion were as follows:

1. The draft minutes of the August 17, 2023 meeting was moved for approval by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Ms. Diaz. Unanimous.
2. Mr. West introduced the idea of having formalized liaison roles for the Commission to work with Town and School entities to further the partnership and exchange of information between the COD and the Community. The following assignments were proposed:

Sarah Quinn – Police and Fire Departments
Jim West – Norwood Public Library
Christine Diaz – Council on Aging
Peter McFarland – Planning and Business Development
Michelle Sweeney – Recreation Department
Marcy Rossi – Norwood Public Schools
Shiri Ronen-Attia – Board of Health
Michael Rosen – Department of Public Works

This slate was moved for approval by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mr. West. Unanimous.

Going forward, the COD will have a recurring agenda item on “Liaison Updates” so that members may brief the other members on what has transpired in their area of focus since the prior meeting.

3. Mr. Rosen shared that Ethics Training is available bi-monthly from the State Ethics Commission for free, and that all COD members should take the Conflict of Interest Training every 2 years. Mr. Rosen directed members to the State’s website to register: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/complete-the-conflict-of-interest-law-education-requirements>
4. Ms. Quinn requested a review of how DPW removes snow from sidewalks in Town, and if it could be better advertised what is done by the Town vs. what is done by the resident or business owner. Mr. Rosen looked up on the Town website that we do have an ordinance in the Town Bylaws, Article XII, Section 26, which requires any business or

commercial enterprise to clear snow from the sidewalk in front of their property within 6 hours of daylight after any snow has ceased to fall. Public Works does clear snow from 31 miles of sidewalks in Town. These sidewalk routes were established by a joint effort between the Public Works, Police Department and School Department. It generally focuses on areas around schools, Norwood Center and Washington Street through South Norwood. While having Public Works plow all sidewalks may sound ideal, labor and financial restraints prohibit that from occurring.

Mr. Rosen said he would talk to DPW Director Mark Ryan to see if a map representation of what sidewalks get plowed by DPW and what does not throughout the Town can be drawn up, and see that it be advertised through the Town website and social media channels. In addition, the COD is looking for an overall better marketing strategy around snow removal. Perhaps pamphlets could be created and distributed, such as the sample from the City of Newton.

5. Mr. Rosen updated that the letter the COD authored last month regarding traffic safety was submitted to the Town Manager.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2024 at 4:00pm.

At 4:27 pm, Mr. McFarland made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. West seconded the motion. The motion, through a rollcall, was approved unanimously.

Duly submitted by Michael Rosen, Assistant General Manager