

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: July 11, 2024

Minutes prepared by Kelly Bloom

The following commission members were present:

Human Resources Director Beth Brennan O'Donnell, Robert Caldwell, Christine Gray, Tom Gould, Erica Barrett

The following board members were absent:

Kayla Bentas, Tom Muxie, Mark Menard

Others in attendance:

Carolyn Wynn Director of the COA and resident Neil Papamichael Via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM and the group was welcomed by chair, Beth O'Donnell. This meeting was held in person and hybrid via zoom.

Commission Matters:

- Reminder there will be no August meeting and any trainings will be forwarded.
- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 4:30 PM.
- A motion to approve June 13, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Tom Gould and seconded by Christine Gray.

Webpage:

- Beth had a conversation with Tom Muxie regarding his questions and concerns and most have been addressed and updated.

DPS and Planning Updates:

- Updates to the Central Street project provided by Will Paulitz. All Central Street utilities will begin the week of 7/22/24.
- Carolyn Wynn has been present at meetings and updated regularly and has had no real issues so far at the Council on Aging.
- No updates in relation to parking meters. The Parking Clerk should hopefully attend a meeting in the fall to answer any questions.

Communications/Issues/Complaints:

- The Commission received a complaint from a resident regarding the Ross Park area on Johnson Street. There is a new crosswalk at the top of the entrance to Ross Park and space was cleared heading down to the park area but there is no sidewalk and the grade of the path and road down to the park may not be compliant as well. Will Paulitz went to view the area and agrees that it is not in compliance, and they will work with Community Development in case it is related to the bike path.

- Erica Barret brought to the attention of the commission 3 areas in South Peabody that have accessibility issues. One is near 7/11 on Lynn Street where a tree was removed but the stump remains and is overgrown near handicap parking spots and the sidewalk is not accessible. Another area of concern is Overlea Lane and Lynn Street. There is a cross walk and no curb cutout to access the sidewalk across the street from Brown's Pond. There is also an area of concern at Lynn Street and Springs Pond Road where a cross walk meets a guard rail and no sidewalk access.
- Erica to send pictures to Beth and she will have Will Paulitz look to address these areas of concern and update the board at the next meeting.
- Neil Papamichael joined the meeting via Zoom and let the board know he had an update that Lifetime Fitness was planning on submitting a proposal for residential apartments at Lifetime in Peabody. He stated he is hoping to be moving to the one in Burlington and they have good residential options and programs for a diverse population and some reduced income units will also be available.

Communication from AAB:

- MOD communication regarding the Digital Accessibility Training that has begun for ADA Coordinators and more will be available soon for members.

Budget:

No update.

Board Members were instructed to submit COD agenda items to the attention of Kelly Bloom, Clerk to our Commission, via email: Kelly.bloom@peabody-ma.gov BEFORE NOON the Monday before the next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 12, 2024, at 4:30 in the Lower-Level Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM.