

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: October 9, 2025

Minutes prepared by Kelly Bloom

The following commission members were present:

Human Resources Director Dagmar Whitaker, Tom Gould, Robert Caldwell, Sheila Dzengelewski, Mark Menard, and Kayla Bentas via zoom.

Others in attendance: Facilities Director, James Politano and Drew Levin, Sr. Planner.

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

Commission Matters:

- A motion to approve September 25, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Tom Gould and seconded by Drew Levin.
- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 13, at 4:30 PM in the lower-level conference room.

Webpage:

- All new events and resources have been updated and posted on the website.
- COD Website and Monthly host fee needs to be updated.

DPS and Planning Updates:

- Mark Mendard said the updates to the bathroom doors at One Main Street are all set. They now swing open the other way.
- Mark Mendard States that the Bell Inn is now working with the architect to help resolve linger issues. He states they are still on a temporary occupancy permit, but most of the items that have been an issue have been resolved.

Communications/Issues/Complaints:

- Questions regarding follow-up on the sidewalks and the curb cutouts on Foster Street and Church Street. May need to advise Capt. Richards that a no parking sign from here to corner should be put in place at Foster and Church Street since parking spaces obscure visibility. We still need to have Will P. assess this area as well and follow up.
- Bob Caldwell mentioned the ramp into the Smith Barn at Brooksby Farm is at a very steep grade and may not be up to code. Mark Menard says he will look into it.

Communication from AAB and Mass Office on Disability:

- Jim Politano from Facilities states that the accessibility audit is complete, he is still reviewing all items. Please email Jim with any specific questions regarding the audit and he can review. There are a number of items that need attention and it will be an ongoing process to address the issues.

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 November 13, at 4:30 in the Lower-Level Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 PM.