

Commission on Disability  
Meeting Minutes, August 8th, 2024  
Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA 02719  
Zoom Meeting Code: 841-0127-4695 Passcode: 828067  
Dial In Number: 1-312-626-6799  
Contact: [cod@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:cod@fairhaven-ma.gov)

Present: Pamela Whynot (Chair), Krystal Lunn (Secretary), Eleanor Chew, Annemarie Chagnon, Cara Viveiros, Randall Durrigan, Keith Silvia (Select Board Liaison)  
ZOOM: Ronnie Medina (Vice-Chair)  
Guest: Fairhaven Cable TV  
Absent: Martha Reed, Staff Liaison, Donna Maino Lavalley, Jennifer Cardoza  
All votes were taken by roll call vote

**I. Call Meeting to Order:** Pamela Whynot, Chair, read the meeting call to order and the state guidelines and called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

**II. Approval Minutes:** Randy made a motion to accept the July minutes with a couple of amendments, including the spelling of Annemarie's name. Eleanor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**III. Financial Report/Rules Regarding Donations & Fundraising:** Pam discussed her conversation with Martha and the Town Treasurer and reported that the Commission cannot solicit funds. If anyone wanted to donate funds, they would have to make the donation to the town for the Commission on Disability.

#### **IV. Old Business:**

**a) Neighborhood News Articles:** Eleanor wrote two articles for the Commission. The first is on the adaptive bike, and the second is on accessible parking. The Commission decided on sending the one on accessibility parking to be published now and chose to wait on sending the article about the adaptive bike until the bike is available to rent out at the COA/Rec Center. The Commission will also post the accessibility parking article on Facebook. Eleanor will send it to the town to post along with sending it to Mrs. Kohler.

**b) Update on Work on Accessibility Study:** The Commission held the discussion on this until Martha is back at the next meeting.

**c) Update on ASL Classes:** Annemarie did speak with Morgan, and she does not feel the school will have the funds to provide these classes at this time. Annemarie is looking into a couple of grants that may help with funding if we choose to have a child's ASL class outside of the school.

**d) Huttleston Marketplace Kid's Days:** The Commission discussed that the August Kid's Day was not as busy as the past ones but that it is beneficial if we help even one person. The Commission will be attending the one in September. Pam asked that anyone available to help should reach out to her.

**e) Diverse Abilities Celebration:** Krystal and Pam will be attending the meeting on 8/12/24 to discuss what did or did not work for this year. Eleanor and Annemarie brought up that the name of this year's event and felt that the word disability needed to be added to the event going forward.

**f) Adaptive Bike Updates:** The working group (Jen, Annemarie and Eleanor) finalized the paperwork, and it will be sent to the Select Board to approve. Pam reached out to Martha to look at. The Commission wants to check if the Commission could pass going through the Select Board since it is using the same waiver that the Rec Center is already using. If possible, could the Commission make the bike available right away. The Commission of Disability took a vote to see if, once available, the bike should only be available for Fairhaven residents. The Commission voted 2 yes 5 no.

**g) Communication Board Update:** The Commission is still waiting for it to come in. Eleanor brought up that she wants the Commission to do an unveiling, inviting the Select Board and Cable TV. Krystal also brought up having Fun 107 invited.

**h) Accessible Parking Spots at Fairhaven High School:** Annemarie spoke with Tara Kohler, who has ordered new handicap signs and is working to get the correct stencil. She also is having the trees cut back so the signs will be visible. Krystal brought up that it seems to be a town issue that she has seen them all over town. She asked if the Commission could bring it to the Select Board to have them all replaced.

**i) Social Media:** Krystal and Annemarie have signed the papers with the town and can now post on the Commission of Disability page. The Commission has 19 new followers and 13 new likes in the past 28 days. Annemarie said she appreciated the training that the town provided.

**j) By-Laws/Writing Warrant Article for November Town Meeting:** The attorney is looking over the By-Laws. The Commission is hoping it will be back soon so it can be added to the Special Town Meeting in November. Eleanor is going to write the article so that it can be sent to the Town Clerk with the By-Laws.

**k) "Junior" Commission on Disability:** Pam spoke with Martha and Town Administrator regarding the Junior Commission and she said that anyone come to Commission meetings and help at Commission events but the Commission could not make a Junior Commission. Therefore, Krystal asked if there could be student representatives just as the School Committee does. Pam said that was ok to do. Krystal is going to reach out to Mrs. Allaire and ask if she has any students she felt would like to be our student representatives.

## **I) 2024-2025 Focus Projects:**

### **a) Krystal:**

- 1.) Work on the Student Representatives
- 2.) How can we support the School Department?
- 3.) Working with the local sports organizations to make them more inclusive

### **b) Randall:**

- 1.) Working with Cable TV to have more meeting lists in an audio format

### **c) Eleanor:**

- 1.) Making a resource guide
- 2.) Making the town more accessible
- 3.) Town events

### **d) Annemarie:**

- 1.) Making our disability community more visible

### **e) Pam:**

- 1.) Setting up listening sessions
- 2.) Helping the town to find the money to complete some of the town's assessment

## **V. New Business:**

**a) Special Olympics at Fairhaven High School:** Ronnie worked with Cable TV to put the recent Special Olympics of Dartmouth on Fairhaven TV. Annemarie asked about post pictures from the Special Olympics on the Commission's Facebook.

**b) Fairhaven Cable TV Accessibility:** Randall is working with Cable TV to make the meeting list audio.

**c) Town Meeting Accessibility & Accommodations:** Krystal as the Commission on Disability representative brought up what was discussed at the first Town Meeting Advisory Meeting. The Commission discussed what the Warrant is and the pre meeting. Annemarie brought up having captions at the pre meeting. The Commission also discussed having an audio version of the Warrant.

**VI. Public Comment:** Gabriel discussed how he was in this year's Special Olympics in Dartmouth.

**VII. Questions/Comments from COD:** No comments

**VIII. Next Meeting Day:** Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 6pm at The Town Hall.  
Eleanor made a motion to have the meeting and Ronnie seconded. The vote was done as a role call and was unanimous.

**IX. Adjournment:** 7:37pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Krystal Lunn

Secretary