

**Commission on Disability  
Meeting Minutes, March 13, 2024  
Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA 02719  
Zoom Meeting Code: 841-0127-4695 Passcode: 828067  
Contact: [cod@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:cod@fairhaven-ma.gov)**

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

**All votes were taken by roll call vote.**

**Agenda**

I. Call Meeting To Order: Pamela Whynot, Chair, read the meeting call to order and the state guidelines, and she called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes: Jennifer made a motion to accept the January minutes with a couple amendments. Eleanor seconded the motion, and it passed with 7 yes and 1 abstain.

III. Financial Report: Pamela reported that the Commission has approximately \$965.02 left in its budget and \$90 in its gift fund.

**IV. New Business:**

a. Mike Jenney - Veteran's Service Officer: Mike went over the things he is working on at Veterans Center. They are now located at the Senior Center which has made it much more accessible for veterans who are in wheelchairs and have a disability. One of the biggest things he is working on is transportation which is a big issue for some veterans being able to get to their appointments. Mike is hoping to be able to obtain a van; he has 15 volunteers willing to drive the van. To become a volunteer to drive the van all one would have to do is pass a VA physical, which would be free of cost. Martha also brought up that the COA is working on getting two vans- one would be able to be used for single patient appointments. The other would be a 15 passenger van.

b. Snow Removal: Pamela and Annemarie have spoken with the Highway department and Josh Crab to go over how snow removal can be improved. The snow removal is done in 3 stages. The first stage is to clear the travel lanes enough in case of emergencies. Stage two is to go back over the streets but closer to the curb once the snow has stopped. The final stage is trying to remove the snow from the corner curbs that are emergent like bus stops or near the school when they have the availability and if there are no emergencies.

**V. Old Business:**

a. Neighborhood News Article: Eleanor is working on an article for next month.

b. Accessibility Study: The report is complete. Right now, Martha is reading through it to see if there are any errors. Once she has completed going over the report, a public meeting will be set up, and the reports will be made available to the Town on the Town page along with the Commission of Disability page. Once both of those things have been done, the Commission and the Town can start collaborating on what the town and the Commission need to update first and which grant applications need to be completed.

c. Social Media: Annemarie has been working on some safety videos. She wants to speak with the Safety Officer and Liveable Streets Committee. Eleanor made the motion, and Randy seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. She would also like to do a blurb on all of the Commission members who are willing to participate. She will also be sharing the Veterans Services information to make sure everyone has the information.

d. 2024-2025 Focus Projects: No updates at this time.

e. Fairhaven Rec Center - Adaptive Programming: No updates at this time. Krystal asked if the Commission had heard back from the Town Administrator about whether the Commission of Disability could sponsor those 5 memberships. The Commission has not heard back yet.

f. Letter in Support of Moving SRTA Bus Stops; Pamela spoke with Josh Crabb, and he said SRTA and the Highway Department are working on fixing the bus stops in the spring.

g. Summer Outreach Opportunities: Eleanor is working on this and will come back with more information next month. Martha will also be reaching out to Jessica from the Belonging Committee and will be getting back to the Commission of Disability.

h. Bike Path & Rail Trail Improvements Letter: Pamela made everyone aware it was too late after our last meeting to write the letter in support the DPW had asked us for. There is a bike lane accessibility survey from the Mass Commission of Disability. Pamela asked AnneMarie and Krystal to post it on the social media page and will be posted on the Town page. Krystal made a motion for Pamela to reach out to Fairhaven Housing, Oxford School Residence and Peabody to have Pamela go there with a table so residents there can also fill out the survey. Donna seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

i. Collaboration with Parent Advisory Committee: Krystal will reach out to Laura before the next meeting.

VII. Public Comment: No public comment.

VIII. Questions/Comments from COD: No comments from COD members.

IX. Next Meeting Date - Thursday, April 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Krystal made a motion, and Annemarie seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment 7:05pm