



Nantucket Commission on Disability
Minutes
Open Session
Friday, November 1, 2024

Due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak, and pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Regarding Open Meeting Law, this meeting was conducted remotely by video conference via Zoom and the meeting will be aired at a later time on the Town's Government TV YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-sgxAlfdoxteLNzRAUHlxA>"

Present:

Mickey Rowland, Jeanette Topham, Georgia Snell, Maribeth Maloney, August Chotkowski and Brenda McDonough.

Absent:

Rocky Fox

Guests:

Public Comment: None

Call to Order: 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Rowland did not read the "Script for Remotely Conducted Open Meetings" since all the members are well versed in the Script. All members present via Zoom responded affirmatively as Mr. Rowland called their names.

Agenda: 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Rowland stated, by unanimous consent we are adopting the agenda.

Note:

Minutes 3:03 P.M.

Ms. Snell motioned to approve March 14, 2024, minutes, which Ms. Maloney seconded, and all the present, eligible Commission members unanimously approved this motion by roll call:

Mr. Rowland- Aye

Ms. Topham- Aye

Ms. Snell- Aye

Ms. Maloney- Aye

Mr. Chotkowski- Aye

Election of Officers:

Ms. Snell motioned to nominate Mickey Rowland as Chairperson, which Ms. Topham seconded, and all the Commissioners unanimously voted in favor of this motion.

Mr. Rowland motioned to nominate Ms. Maloney as Vice Chairperson, which Ms. Snell seconded, and all the remaining Commissioners unanimously voted in favor of this motion.

Open Session: 3:08 P.M.**New Business: None****Topics:****Old Business: None****Update: 3:05 P.M.**

- The Commission on Disability along with the DPW applied for a MOD Municipal Grant for additional boardwalks and platforms at Galley, Jetties and Childrens beaches. The grant also includes boardwalks, stairs and platforms on James Street and Willard Street paths that lead to the harbor. The following are the Commissioners comments and suggestions.
- Mr. Rowland mentioned that benches at the end of James and Willard Streets' paths would be great for anyone who has difficulty walking on the sand.
- Ms. Topham commented the many elderly women visit the Galley Beach, which is one of the boardwalks that we hope to extend closer to the water's edge, and she thought that the town should install a bench at the end of the boardwalk. Ms. Snell included that when you walk with a cane it is difficult to carry a beach towel and chair. She supported a bench in this location. Ms. Topham remarked that the Galley boardwalk was removed too soon after the summer season. Mr. Rowland noted that we should revisit the beaches and paths and see the best location to install benches and maybe a platform too.
- Two athletes who have a disability participated in the Nantucket Triathlon. They were supported by the Achilles International Organization. The Commission on Disability helped with some of the travel logistics to Nantucket and while they were visiting Nantucket.
- The public schools will test all their automatic door openers and buzzes weekly to ensure that they are working properly.
- The Commission on Disability worked with Housing Nantucket in their advertising for the 2 wheelchair accessible units at 31 Fairgrounds Road.
- The Commission on Disability's portable ramps are in high demand.
- Mr. Rowland and Ms. McDonough reviewed plans for the paddle courts property on Hinsdale Road. They also visited the NISDA property and the old Skinners golf course. There are multiple problems regarding accessibility at both of these properties that Mr. Rowland and Ms. McDonough will address with the Land Bank representatives.
- Stop&Shop relocated one of the shopping cart corals adjacent to an accessible parking space. Mr. Rowland made this happen.
- Nantucket Cottage Hospital adjusted the door closures on all their interior doors for easier opening and closing of the hospital doors.
- The SSA's employees are not aware of the SSA's policies regarding passengers with disabilities. Ms. McDonough emailed Robert Davis, GM of the SSA, twice requesting that he educate all the SSA employees about their policies for passengers with disabilities. Mr. Davie

never responded. The Commissioners suggested that Ms. McDonough send the email to Nat Lowell, SSA's Port Council Chair, and hopefully he will respond.

***Commissioners' Comments:**

- Mr. Chotkowski remarked on the inaccessible sidewalk near the Gaslight Restaurant.
- Mr. Chotkowski mentioned that he cannot safely access Millie's Restaurant at the rotary with he is in his motorized wheelchair coming from Old South bike path to the restaurant.
- Mr. Chotkowski informed the Commission that his wheelchair gets stuck in the rocks at Something Natural parking lot. Ms. McDonough will visit all these areas and try to find a solution with the town and property owners to make these areas accessible.
- Ms. McDonough will contact Disabled Persons Protection Commission and CORD and invite them to one of our meetings so that they can have a presence here on Nantucket.

***Topics Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting:**

Adjournment: 4:17 P.M.

Ms. Topham motioned to adjourn Open Session, which Ms. Maloney seconded, and all voted in favor of this motion by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rowland- Aye

Ms. Snell- Aye

Ms. Maloney- Aye

Ms. Topham- Aye

Mr. Chotkowski- Aye

Submitted by:

Brenda McDonough, Facilitator