



Nantucket Commission on Disability Minutes Open Session Wednesday, July 30, 2025

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-sgxAlfdoxteLNzRAUHixA>

Present:

Mickey Rowland, Georgia Snell, Maribeth Maloney, August Chotkowski, Nancy Swain and Brenda McDonough.

Absent:

Rocky Fox and Jeanette Topham

Guests: None

Public Comment: None

Call to Order: 4:00 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: 4:01 P.M.

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

Note:

Minutes 4:02 P.M.

Ms. Snell motioned to approve April 3, 2025, minutes, which Ms. Swain seconded, and all the present, eligible Commission members unanimously approved this motion by roll call:

Mr. Rowland- Aye

Ms. Swain- Aye

Ms. Snell- Aye

Ms. Maloney- Aye

Mr. Chotkowski- Aye

Open Session: 4:05 P.M.

New Business:

- A person who attended the Commission on Disability meeting on March 19, 2018, requested that we remove her name from those minutes. Ms. Snell motioned to remove this woman's name and replace her name with "a Nantucket resident", which Ms. Maloney seconded the motion, and all the present members voted in favor of this motion.
- Ms. Maloney recounted the experience she and her son, Mr. Chotkowski, encountered at the Antiques Show located under the tent at Bartletts Farm. Mr. Chotkowski, who uses a motorized wheelchair, and his mother attempted to attend the Antique Show under the tent at Bartletts. They watched the construction of the tent for two weeks. Mr. Chotkowski drove his wheelchair through the dirt and grass and were welcomed by a nice woman at the entrance to the tent. They were told that there was a "step", a block of wood covered with a piece of carpet, and they knew that he could not ride his wheelchair over the "step".

Two days later, they returned to the Antique Show with a portable ramp in the trunk of their van. Ms. Maloney struggled a bit to hold the doors open while trying to set up the ramp at the "step", and two lovely men dashed over to assist her with the ramp. She did emphasize that the people (she assumed they were volunteers) who were greeters at the entrance, could not have been more kind, helpful and gracious. Two volunteers helped Ms. Maloney pack the ramp in her van after she and Mr. Chotkowski exited the tent.

Ms. Maloney spoke to Ms. McDonough shortly after their visit to the Antiques Show and Ms. McDonough was very upset that the Antiques Show was not held in an accessible location. Ms. McDonough visited Bartletts Farm on July 30, 2025, because there were three events scheduled under the tent on July 30, August 1 and August 2. She spoke with David Handy, the event organizer for these events, and she discussed with Mr. Handy that the tent must be completely wheelchair accessible and that they must provide at least 3 accessible parking spaces. Mr. Handy said that they will have parking attendants, and they will direct anyone who has a disabled parking permit to these accessible parking spaces. Ms. McDonough provided a four-foot ramp that will provide access from the grass to the cocktail area. Once you are in this area, the rest of the tent is wheelchair accessible. The ramp will be in place for Friday and Saturday's events, so the tent is wheelchair accessible for all the events. Mr. Handy was very receptive to providing access to the tent and designating a parking area closest to the ramp entrance for the accessible parking spaces.

Ms. McDonough will contact all the organizations and event planners who typically have their fundraisers under the tent at Bartletts and educate them that their event must be completely accessible to everyone. They must provide at least three accessible parking spaces closest to the tent entrance and install a 25-foot Mobi mat over the grass, or something similar, from the accessible parking spaces to the tent entrance. They will need to install the appropriate ramps from the grass to the tent flooring and at any change in elevation under the tent. And they must provide a wheelchair accessible portable toilet at any outdoor event that does not have accessible restrooms nearby. Ms. McDonough can provide any ramps that they can reserve for their fundraiser.

Mr. Rowland wondered if there were portable toilets at the events.

Topics:

Old Business: None

Update: 4:15 P.M.

- **Candlewick Corner.** Mr. Fox mentioned that Candlewick Corner has no accessible parking spaces. Ms. McDonough contacted a representative at VTT Management Group, who owns Candlewick Corner, and requested four accessible parking spaces, which Candlewick Corner was required to install when the Planning Board approved the development. VTT Management has installed 4 accessible parking spaces that are striped and have the universal symbol for accessibility painted on the asphalt. Only one space has the appropriate signage. They plan to add the three other accessible parking space signs in September.
- **Something Natural.** Matt Fee plans to install two accessible parking spaces at Something Natural parking lot. He plans to raise the grade, make it flush with sidewalks for a larger area so there are fewer curbs for 2 compliant accessible parking spaces and walkway in between. He already has two accessible parking space signs.
- **MOD Grant.** Ms. McDonough applied for the MOD grant, which is available to all municipalities in the state for projects to improve access to municipal owned property. Ms. McDonough applied for 175 feet long and 6 feet wide teak boardwalk for Galley Beach, and for 6 floating beach wheelchairs. MOD will contact us in October whether we were awarded the grant or not.
- **Click and Fix.** Ms. McDonough submitted six requests to DPW through their Click and Fix portal:
 - A crosswalk across Sparks Avenue from Milestone Lane to the parking lot of Millies at the Rotary. This will allow people with ambulatory concerns to cross Sparks Ave to access the ramp at the rear of Millie's restaurant.
 - Relocate accessible parking spaces at 2 Fairgrounds.
 - Install two automatic door openers at the main entrance at 2 Fairgrounds.
 - Repair sidewalk on Union Street adjacent to the Gaslight restaurant
 - Install an accessible parking space across from 8 Cliff Road.
 - Install a stop sign on Oak Hallow Lane just before the bike path.
- Emailed ReMain Nantucket and request an accessible parking space at Pip and Anchor on Amelia Drive.
- Relocate an accessible parking space in Sconset from a residential area to the corner of New Street and Folger Lane.
- Ms. McDonough remotely attended CORD'S emergency preparedness meeting to see how other communities are preparing to care for people with disabilities in the event of an emergency.
- Request that the DPW stripe the two accessible parking spaces on Fair Street that are only identified with accessible parking signage.
- Automatic interior door to the high school was not working on election day. Ms. McDonough reported this to Nancy Holmes, the Town Clerk, who was monitoring the election. She contacted the school custodian, and he activated the automatic door opener. Ms. McDonough will contact the school whenever they have an election or

town meeting at the high school and remind them to have all the automatic doors fully operational.

- Mr. Rowland and Ms. McDonough worked with the architect for the new Sparks Ave complex on relocating the accessible parking spaces on their property.

***Commissioners' Comments:**

- Mr. Chotkowski and Ms. Maloney informed the Commission that there is one accessible parking sign on the building at the airport gas station, but the parking space is not striped. Roasted General Store is located on that property. Ms. McDonough will look at the parking space and the parking lot in general so see the best location for the accessible parking space and accessible route to the gas station convenience store and Roasted.
- Mr. Chotkowski brought this to the Commission's attention. There are two accessible parking spaces on Federal Street at the intersection of Broad Street. There is a dirt/grass section of sidewalk adjacent to accessible space closest to Broad Street. His mother cannot park their accessible van in this space because the ramp lands on the dirt and he cannot exit the van safely in his wheelchair. The problem with the second accessible parking space is that there is a post with the accessible parking space sign located on the sidewalk in the middle of the space. Again Mr. Chotkowski's mother cannot park here because the post prohibits them from placing the ramp on the sidewalk. Ms. McDonough will request that the town bricks the dirt area adjacent to the first accessible parking space and relocate the accessible parking signage post to the top of the second space.
- Ms. McDonough emailed Nancy Pittman at the hospital and explained how difficult it is for anyone with an ambulatory or respiratory disability, and for the elderly to travel from the main hospital entrance to the hospital appointment check in area. Ms. McDonough suggested that patients with an ambulatory disability or respiratory concerns could somehow check in at the front desk or be able to check in without making the trek down the corridor. This would be a wonderful and much needed accommodation for patients using walkers or canes, or for anyone who has difficulty ambulating.
- Mr. Rowland commended all the Commissioners for all their contributions to the Commission. Most of the work the Commission does comes from the Commissioners suggestions or concerns regarding inaccessible features and areas around the island that they observe or experience.

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

Adjournment: 4:52 P.M.

Ms. Snell 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. Swain- Aye

Mr. Chotkowski- Aye

Submitted by: Brenda McDonough, Facilitator



Commission on Disability

TOWN OF NANTUCKET
