



**Nantucket Commission on Disability
Minutes
Open Session
Friday, January 31, 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-sgxAlfdoxteLNzRAUHlxA>

Present:

Mickey Rowland, Rocky Fox, Georgia Snell, Maribeth Maloney, August Chotkowski and Brenda McDonough.

Absent:

Jeanette Topham

Guests:

Ben Hutchins, Learning and Development Specialist with Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC)

Taryn Lee Turgeon, Assistant Director of Protective Services with the Executive Office of Aging and Independence (EOAI)

Eddie, Program Director for Elder Services of Cape Cod and Islands

Public Comment: None

Call to Order: 3:01 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: 3:01 P.M.

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

Note:

Minutes 4:25 P.M.

Ms. Snell motioned to approve November 1, 2024, minutes, which Ms. Maloney seconded, and all the present, eligible Commission members unanimously approved this motion by roll call:

Mr. Rowland- Aye

Mr. Fox- Aye

Ms. Snell- Aye
Ms. Maloney- Aye
Mr. Chotkowski- Aye

Open Session: 3:05 P.M.

New Business:

Topics:

- Mr. Rowland asked all the members to introduce themselves and all the guests introduced themselves also.

Ben Hutchins with DPPC gave an overview of the State Agency DPPC.

DPPC mission statement

The mission of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission is: To protect adults with disabilities from the abusive acts or omissions of their caregivers through investigation oversight, public awareness and prevention.

About DPPC

The DPPC was created through legislation (M.G.L. c.19C) in 1987 as an independent state agency responsible for the investigation and remediation of instances of abuse committed against persons with disabilities in the Commonwealth. Pursuant to its enabling statute M.G.L. c. 19C, the jurisdiction of DPPC includes adults with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 59, who are within the Commonwealth whether in state care or in a private setting and who suffer serious physical and/or emotional injury through the act and/or omission of their caregivers. The DPPC enabling statute fills the gap between the Department of Children and Families (DCF) (through the age of 17) and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) (age 60 and over) statutes.

As an independent state agency, DPPC through its three Commissioners are required to report directly to the Governor and the Legislature. The Executive Director, who reports directly to the Commissioners, is charged with the responsibility of the daily operations of DPPC and supervision of its staff.

Role of the DPPC

In cases of suspected physical, emotional and sexual abuse or neglect of a person with a disability, the DPPC:

- Receives and screens reports of suspected abuse, neglect and deaths through a 24-Hour Hotline. They receive reports of physical, emotional, sexual and financial neglect by a caregiver.
- Conducts investigations. State Police will be notified if necessary.
- Oversees investigations conducted on DPPC's behalf by other state agencies: Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)
- Ensures that the appropriate protective services are provided when abuse has been substantiated, or risk is determined

- Provides training and education for service providers, law enforcement personnel and the public
- Provides assistance to the public in clarifying the presence of abuse and neglect
- Maintains DPPC Abuser Registry

Taryn Lee Turgeon with EOAI gave an overview of this agency.

Protecting older adults from abuse

Abuse of adults 60 and older includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, caretaker neglect, financial exploitation and self-neglect. Reporting abuse to Adult Protective Services can help.

There are 19 state agencies.

Eddie with Elder Services for the Cape and Islands gave an overview of the services that this department provides.

Helping Older Adults and People with Disabilities Maintain Well Being and Independence.

Provides twenty-four hour a day, seven-days-a- week assistance for anyone sixty or older who has been abused, neglected, financially exploited or is at risk of harm due to self-neglect.

Common reports are self-neglect, eviction and alcohol abuse.

Anyone can file a confidential report, and the agency will investigate withing 48 hours and goes out unannounced in most cases.

Most reports on Nantucket come from the hospital and police and fire departments.

- Mr. Rowland wondered if any of these agencies did public outreach. He asked if Nantucket could request a training so that the Nantucket community would know about these agencies. All the guests replied that they would be happy to give a presentation about the services that they provide to the Nantucket community.
- Ms. Turgeon, Mr. Hutchins and Eddie left our meeting.

Old Business: None

Update: 4:10 P.M.

- Land Bank:
 - Mr. Rowland and Ms. McDonough visited the Land Bank's Sconset Golf Course and NISDA property on Wauwinet Road to review their accessible features.
 - Mr. Rowland and Ms. McDonough met with Eleanor Antonietti at the Racket Courts on Hinsdale Road because the racket club plans to build new racket and paddle courts and the property is required to be in full compliance with the AAB's rules and regulations.
 - Ms. McDonough visited Long Pond Landing to look at the accessibility concerns at that property.
 - Mr. Rowland and Ms. McDonough plan to discuss these properties with the Land Bank's director on how to improve access at these properties.
 - Housing Nantucket has a two-bedroom wheelchair accessible apartment at Wiggles Way available to someone with an ambulatory disability.

- Congregational Church will install two wheelchair accessible parking spaces adjacent to the church.
- Ms. McDonough visited the football stadium and took pictures and notes regarding access and discussed them with Mr. Rowland. They plan to contact the facilities director and schedule a meeting to discuss the stadium.
- Mr. Rowland and Ms. McDonough reviewed the plans for the new Our Island Home with an architect working on this project.
- Ms. McDonough visited the dirt sidewalk at Millies at the rotary, the sidewalk at the Gaslight Restaurant with the raised cable manhole cover, and the gravel parking lot at Something natural with an inaccessible parking space because Augie Chotkowski informed the Commission that these areas had major problems regarding access. Ms. McDonough plans to email the DPW director and Matt Fee, owner of Something Natural, about these inaccessible hazards on town property and at Something Natural's parking lot.
- Ms. McDonough and Drew Patnode, DPW Director plan to submit a MOD municipal grant request again for new boardwalks and platforms and benches.
- Nancy Swain will be sworn in as a new Commissioner. Welcome Nancy.

***Commissioners' Comments:**

- Mr. Fox mentioned that there is no accessible parking space at Candlewick Corner on Old South Road. Ms. McDonough will contact the management company who owns this property and request the required number of accessible parking spaces.

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

Adjournment: 4:30 P.M.

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

Mr. Rowland- Aye

Ms. Snell- Aye

Ms. Maloney- Aye

Mr. Fox- Aye

Mr. Chotkowski- Aye

Submitted by:

Brenda McDonough, Facilitator



Commission on Disability
TOWN OF NANTUCKET