



Nantucket Commission on Disability Minutes Open Session Thursday, April 3, 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-sgxAlfdoxteLNzRAUH1xA>

Present:

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

Absent:

Rocky Fox

Guests: None

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: 3:01 P.M.

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

Note: Mr. Rowland welcomed Nancy Swain as the newest member of the Commission on Disability. Ms. Swain spoke about her advocacy here on Nantucket and her interest in becoming a member of the Commission.

Minutes 4:06 P.M.

Ms. Snell motioned to approve January 31, 2025, minutes, which Ms. Topham 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

Ms. Topham- Aye

Open Session: 3:05 P.M.

New Business: None

Topics:

Old Business: None

Update: 3:07 P.M.

- Mr. Rowland and Ms. McDonough met with Rachael Freeman, Executive Director of Nantucket Land Bank, to discuss how best to bring the Sconset Golf Course, Long Pond Landing and NISDA in full compliance with the 521 CMR. Ms. Freeman assured us that the Land Bank will bring all three locations in full compliance. They will start with Long Pond Landing and hopefully this project will be completed for everyone to enjoy this summer.
- Ms. McDonough met with Matt, Managing Director for Sconset Golf Course, and several other representatives about the inaccessible parking spaces and the inaccessible path to the golf clubhouse. They plan to redo the two accessible parking spaces in the lower parking lot and add a third accessible parking space adjacent to the clubhouse. They also plan to install an accessible surface on the path leading from the lower parking lot to the clubhouse.
- Mr. Rowland and Ms. McDonough met with Chip Clunie, Nantucket Public School Facilities Manager, regarding the inaccessible features at the football stadium. The school plans to install two accessible parking spaces close to the accessible path to the football stadium. They will install accessible paths to the snack shack and the ramp to the stadium bleachers, and they will install an accessible porta toilet. They hope to complete this project by September in time for the new school year. There are plans to completely redo the football stadium at some point in the future.
- Ms. McDonough emailed Matt Feeney about Something Natural's inaccessible parking space located on a gravel surface and no access aisle. Mr. Fee said that he would take care of this immediately.
- Mr. Fox mentioned at a previous meeting that Candlewick Corner has no accessible parking spaces. Ms. McDonough visited Candlewick Corner and will contact the owner of this development that they need to install accessible parking spaces and access aisles dispersed throughout the parking lot, and these spaces and access aisles must be striped according to the 521 CMR.
- Mr. Rowland and Ms. McDonough had a Zoom meeting with Evan George, MOD Grant Compliance Officer, regarding our 2024 grant application denial. Mr. George explained the committee's process for awarding grants to the Massachusetts municipalities. The meeting was very informative, and Mr. George educated us on how to submit a stronger application. The Commission along with the DPW plan to reapply for a grant in 2025 and take into advisement Mr. George's positive comments.
- Mr. Rowland and Ms. McDonough met with Drew Patnode, DPW Director, and Paul Berard, DPW Deputy Director of Facilities, at Jetties, Galley and Childrens beaches to discuss the 2025 MOD grant. We hope to apply for new boardwalks, platforms and benches at these beaches and hopefully a boardwalk on a path off Hulbert Ave.
- Ms. McDonough met with Mr. Patnode at 2 Fairgrounds to discuss the accessible parking spaces and the inaccessible front entrance. They discussed the best locations

for the accessible parking spaces and Mr. Patnode proposed installing automatic door openers on the outside main entrance door and the inside vestibule door too.

- Ms. McDonough received a call from a Nantucket resident who visited the Urgent Care office. He said that sand had collected in many of the accessible parking spaces at the hospital parking lot making it very difficult for him to negotiate from the accessible parking space to the Urgent Care vestibule entrance. He also mentioned that he had a difficult time entering the Urgent Care entrance because there is no automatic door opener on the outside door to the Urgent Care vestibule. Ms. McDonough visited the hospital parking lot and Urgent Care building and took pictures of the sand in the parking lot and the thresholds at the two vestibule entrances for Urgent Care and for Dr. Lepore office. Ms. McDonough contacted Lee Shaughnessy at Nantucket Cottage Hospital about these concerns. He said that the sand will be removed the weekend of April the 4th, and that the hospital cut down the thresholds, but that the hospital is also having a contractor come out and assess our situation on April 2nd. There is an automatic door opener to Dr. Lepore's side entrance to the vestibule and Ms. McDonough requested that the hospital install signage directing patients to the side entrance with the automatic door opener for those patients who need an automatic door opener.

***Commissioners' Comments:**

- Ms. Snell commented when someone has an appointment at the hospital, you enter the main entrance, and you must traverse the long corridor to check-in for your appointment. Then you must traverse the long corridor once again to sit in the waiting area to be called for your appointment. This is very problematic for anyone with an ambulatory disability. Ms. Snell suggested as a reasonable accommodation anyone with an ambulatory disability should be able to check-in for their appointment at the information desk when you enter the main entrance of the hospital. Mr. Rowland mentioned that the hospital can install signage directing patients with an ambulatory disability to please check in with the staff at the information desk. All the Commissioners agreed with this suggested accommodation. Ms. McDonough will contact the hospital and request that they implement this reasonable accommodation.

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

Adjournment: 4:06 P.M.

Ms. Snell motioned to adjourn Open Session, which Ms. Topoham 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

Ms. Topham- Aye

Submitted by: Brenda McDonough, Facilitator



Commission on Disability

TOWN OF NANTUCKET
