



**Nantucket Commission on Disability
Minutes
Open Session
Friday, January 2, 2026**

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, Rocky Fox, and Brenda McDonough.

Absent:

Jeanette Topham and Nancy Swain

Guests:

Public Comment: None

Call to Order: 4:01 p.m.

Mr. Rowland called the meeting to order. All members present via Zoom responded affirmatively as Mr. Rowland called their names.

Agenda: 4:01 p.m.

Mr. Rowland stated that the Commission adopts the agenda.

Note:

Minutes 4:02 p.m.

Ms. Snell motioned to approve November 21, 2025, 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: 4:03 p.m.

New Business:

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and Roads and Right of Way Committee are being “merged” to advise on broader mobility issues for both the Select Board and Nantucket Planning and Economic Development (NP&EDC). The NP&EDC has recommended the SB form a Transportation and Public Access Advisory Committee (TPAC) with 1 representative from Commission on Disability. Our Commission must appoint a representative for TPAC at our meeting.
- Mr. Rowland stated that he has been a member of the Traffic Safety Committee and he has a relationship with many of the people on the BPAC and the Roads and Right of Way Committee. Mr. Rowland is willing to represent the Commission on this new TPAC for one year.
- Mr. Fox wondered if Mr. Roland had knowledge of the two committees that will form the new TPAC, and if the TPAC meetings would be available on Zoom. Mr. Rowland responded yes to both questions.
- Ms. Snell motioned to nominate Mr. Rowland as a TPAC committee member representing the Commission, and Ms. Maloney seconded this motion, and all present Commission members voted in favor of this motion via rollcall.

Old Business:

- Mr. Rowland relayed to the Commission that he would write a letter to the editor regarding the Commission’s support for a new accessible athletic stadium.

***Update: 4:04 p.m.**

- Mr. Fox mentioned that the automatic door opener at the Pleasant Street post office has not been working for months. Ms. McDonough mentioned that she visited the post office to speak to a manager, and no one knew how to get in touch with the interim manager. A clerk told Ms. McDonough that everyone complains to her regarding this door not working and she does not know what to tell them. Ms. McDonough will file a complaint with the federal government regarding not having an accessible entrance door at this post office.
- Mr. Rowland informed the Commission that he will send a letter to the editor regarding support for the new accessible stadium.
- Ms. McDonough informed the Commission that the Commission partnered with the DPW and applied for two Mass Office on Disability (MOD) grants for a 175-foot-long teak boardwalk (\$24,208.00) for Galley Beach, and for 6 new

floatable beach wheelchairs (\$13,495.00), and that the town was awarded both grant requests. The boardwalks will be installed hopefully by Memorial Day weekend and the 6 beach wheelchairs will be distributed among Jetties, Childrens and Surfside beaches.

***Commissioners' Comments:**

- Mr. Fox brought up the subject of the SSA parking lot. There is one accessible parking space close to the terminal and two accessible parking spaces in the permit-only parking area. He believes that there should be a temporary accessible parking space in front of the terminal so that elderly travelers and travelers who have a disability could park in front and do their business in the terminal building. He stated that most times when the ferry is in dock, it is very difficult to find safe parking in front of the terminal. There is one accessible parking space close by, but when you exit your vehicle, you must navigate through vehicle traffic to get to the terminal, making that journey unsafe for people who have a disability and for elderly travelers. He noted that NRTA has a parking space in front of the terminal and wondered why there is not an accessible parking area also. Mr. Rowland and Ms. McDonough will visit the parking lot and contact the terminal manager to see if the SSA will include a temporary space next to the terminal.
- Then the subject of picking up and dropping off at Hy-Line naturally followed the SSA temporary accessible parking. Commissioners were wondering if anyone with a disabled parking permit could drive down the Hy-Line dock to pick up or drop off someone. Could there a designated space to pick up and drop off people who have a disability.
- The subject then turned to people who abuse accessible parking spaces. The Commissioners wondered if we could leave a card on their vehicle reminding them not to park in the accessible parking space. Mr. Roland suggested that we call the police to send an officer to ticket the unauthorized vehicle.
- Mr. Fox mentioned that maybe there could be beach wheelchairs available at events at the high school stadium.
- Ms. Snell told the Commission her experience of registering for her hospital appointment at the hospitality desk. Mr. Fox said that the hospital must educate the public on any accommodation to register patients with a disability or elderly patients.
- Mr. Roland included that the hospital must train their staff on how to assist a patient who has a disability.
- Mr. Fox mentioned that there is a lip on the inside of the PT door that is a tripping hazard. Ms. McDonough will contact the hospital and ask them to remove this lip.

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

Adjournment: 4:45 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
