



Town of Bridgewater **Disability Commission**

July 30, 2024

2:00 PM

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

To attend via video, click on the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83314292499>

To attend via phone, dial: 1(646) 876-9923

Meeting ID: 833 142 924 99

MEETING AGENDA

Disclosure: Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2020, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, and the March 31, 2025, extension granted by Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting for the Town of Bridgewater will be fully remote and accessible to the public through remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance is permitted. Citizens who wish to tune in to the meeting may do so via Zoom.

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a) May 28, 2024

C. Public Comment

D. Old Business

E. New Business

- a) Announcement - Available Programs from MA Office on Disability:

1. Quarterly Tea with Mod; Hosting Accessible Events and Meetings August 27th 1-3pm
2. Deciding to Disclose August 27th 5:30-6:30pm, November 13th 9:30-10:30am
3. Reasonable Accommodations in Employment August 28th 5:30-7pm, November 13th 11am-12:30pm
4. Disability Discrimination in Employment August 28th 5:30-7:30pm, November 13th 2:30-4pm
5. Reasonable Accommodation and Modification Requests in Housing Workshop September 18th 5:30-7:30pm
6. White Cane Awareness Day Celebration October 18th 10am-1pm

- b) Open Disability Commission Positions

- c) Town of Bridgewater Fair Share Funds Award

- d) Parking Complaints
- e) Board and Committee Project Collaboration
- f) Stiles and Hart Parkland
- g) Crosswalk Safety

F. Additional Items for Discussion

- a) Next Scheduled Meeting August 27th at 2pm

G. Adjournment of Meeting

Bridgewater Disabilities Commission - May 28,

Call to Order: 2:00 pm (via Zoom)

Members present: David Frim, Karen Aicher, Gloria Lemieu

Members Absent: Lorraine Carrozza, Anna Madigan

*Approval of April 30 Meeting Minutes... see NOTE @ end of report.

New Business:

- 1) Josh McGraw addressed members regarding the ADA Improvement Grant and Town's request for support of Disability Commission as it applies for (the Planning stage of) this Grant. Members in attendance agreed, Chairman will submit letter of support on behalf of Commission.
- 2) Chairman informed members Anna Madigan has decided to step down from DC and is in process of preparing her letter of resignation. At the same time, Bridgewater resident Karen Kelleher will be joining the Commission, she also is in process of completing paperwork and scheduling interviews. Also (sadly) members learned Karen Aicher will be resigning after the June meeting. Karen's presence/contributions have been invaluable.. her commitment second to none. She suggested we reach out to Rich Gopen (who among his many attributes, has a background in Occupational Therapy), and who would be a knowledgeable addition to the DC.
- 3) Crosswalk Safety - Downtown Bridgewater. David discussed danger for pedestrians (from speeding cars) when attempting to cross from Library to Town Hall.. Karen talked of the area by Mobil Station (how Crosswalk Button does not give anyone near enough time to make it from one side to other. David mentioned having crosswalks "vividly" painted.
- 4) Follow-up re: last month's guest speaker.. Bridgewater resident Mark Henderson had shared his experience attempting to use the crosswalk in center of town by the Angelo's, crossing to Just Desserts: due to existing, gaping pothole his wheelchair flipped over, he found himself in middle of intersection. He was understandably frightened. Luckily an individual came

to his assistance. Following incident, Town applied cold patch, which proved to be no more than a very temporary fix. Mark asked what steps need be taken for a safer, more lasting solution. Josh McGraw gave Mark info needed to file a report and steps to take to have Town rectify problem. Gloria reported she had been to intersection in question and Highway Dept. had applied a large area of more permanent asphalt.

5) Independence Associates. David suggested we table this discussion until Commission has additional members. Karen pointed out need to maintain Commission boundaries so as not to appear we are endorsing them.

6) Annual DC Award. Once again David suggested we discuss this in fall when membership has increased. Karen encouraged DC to make good on David's earlier suggestion to acknowledge Boundless Bean, for their example of inclusivity, their commitment to a work environment "free of judgement." All agree they are a positive example to the community, to our town.

7) Future Agenda Topics. Tabled till next meeting.

No public comments. Next meeting June 25, 2024, 2:00 pm, ZOOM
Motion to Adjourn made/carried.. 2:30 p.m.

NOTE: Approval of minutes.. because only Chairman and one voting member present today were in attendance at April meeting, it was thought that a member at today's meeting (but not present at April meeting) could NOT vote to approve or to second approval of that month's Minutes. However, Josh pointed out according to Robert's Rules of Order.. as long as member not present at previous meeting, but in attendance today, "has full confidence" in member who prepared Minutes, he/she permitted to make Motion to Approve.

Therefore, motion made by Karen Aicher, seconded by Gloria.

With respectful "attempt".. submitted by Gloria Lemieux

