



City of Fall River Massachusetts

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

2021 JUN 11 P 10:45

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

Dennis Polselli
Chairman

Debbie Pacheco
Vice-Chairwoman

**Minutes of the Fall River Commission on Disability
Conference Call Meeting
Wednesday, June 9, 2021
2:00 PM**

Chairman Dennis Polselli called the meeting to order at 2:07pm

1. Chairman Dennis Polselli opened the meeting by reading the Open Meeting Law statement.
2. **Members Present:** Chairman Dennis Polselli; Commissioner Daniel Robillard; Commissioner Lisa Silva; Commissioner Ann O'Neil-Souza

Others Present: Catherine Destremps, Health Department Clerk; Jeff Dougan, Assistant Director of Community Services Massachusetts Office of Disability

Members Absent: Attorney Gary Howayeck ESQ, ADA Coordinator; Vice Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco

3. **Public Input:** No public input.
4. **Approval of the minutes for the meeting of Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

Motion made by Commissioner Daniel Robillard to accept the minutes from the Commission on Disability meeting from Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

Second: Commissioner Ann O'Neil -Souza

All in favor; none opposed; abstentions; 1

- 5. Guest Presenter:** Jeff Dougan Assistant Director of Community Services Massachusetts Office of Disability with annual updates on state wide Disability issues.

Jeff stated that Mary Mahon McCauley is the Executive Director who updated the mission/overview statement for the MOD. The MOD serves as a resource to agencies, municipal governments and members of the public. This is done through many different rolls. They also serve as a coordinating agency for ADA coordinators of the executive branch which also translates down to other agencies and secretarialists outside of the executive branch. They has a seat on the Architectural Access Board and work very closely with their technical assistance with Commissions on Disability.

The Architectural Access Board regulations were last updated back in 2006. They had convened back in 2008 to 2012 to convene a regulation review subcommittee to update these regulations. The regulations were stalled due to the state combining The Department of Safety and The Department of Public Licensure. At their last meeting the board voted to start up the committee to update the regulations.

The MOD is coordinating an information technology and accessible technology working group. This is to increase working with multiple secretarialists and agencies to raise the importance and understanding of IT and accessible technology within the state government services and activities. The second LevelUP quarterly webinar is scheduled for July 20, 2021 from 11am – 1215pm. The topic will be on ensuring effective communication. There is also a new workshop series called Disclosure in Employment.

The ADA Improvement Grant for FY22 cycle will open on August 2, 2021 and close on October 1, 2021. The grant will then be awarded in December 2021.

6. Work Group Updates

a. ADA Updates:

Dennis stated that the project at the Government Center under the current ADA Improvement Grant is proceeding. Dennis has volunteered to check out brail signage which will be added to the Government Center as one of the ADA Improvement projects.

They are also working on other issues including streets, sidewalks, curb cuts and audible pedestrian signals. The push pad problem at the Government Center has been resolved and are all in working order.

- b. Policies: Fall River Commission Policy approval of funds. It will be the policy of the Fall River Commission on Disability that once funding has been approved by the Commission, a copy of the approved minutes in which the funds were voted be sent to the Account Manager prior to the release of the money.

Motion was made by Commissioner Daniel Robillard to except the policy as is.

Second: Commissioner Lisa Silva

All in favor; none opposed; abstentions; 1

- c. Finance: Current pooled cash as of May \$255,673.18

- d. Outreach:

- I. Update on the Scholarship Luncheon, Saturday June 12, 2021 at McGovern's Restaurant. Everything is ready to go for the Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday. Everyone should arrive by 12:45pm. Cheese, crackers and fruit will be served at that time.

Due to Ann O'Neil-Souza needing to attend another meeting and not having a quorum the meeting adjourned at 3:05pm. No other items were discussed any further.

- II. Proposal to establish an independent Disability Commission Website to include resources as well as agendas, minutes and recordings of Commission meetings for easy access.

7. Old Business:

- 8. **New Business:** Next conference call meeting Wednesday, August 4, 2021

9. Adjournment at 3:05pm

Documents Distributed

Agenda

Minutes from the meeting of May 12, 2021

Letter and estimate for Website Design

Fall River Commission on Disability Scholarship Luncheon Program

Fall River Commission Policy upon approval of funds

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