**City of Fall River**

#### Massachusetts

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**



**Paul e. Coogan**

***Mayor***

**Dennis Polselli**

Chairman

**Debbie Pacheco**

Vice-Chairwoman

**Minutes of the Fall River Commission on Disability**

**Conference Call Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 13th, 2025**

**3:00 PM**

**Chairman Dennis Polselli called the meeting to order at 3:09 P.M**

1. Chairman Dennis Polselli opened the meeting by reading the Open Meeting Law statement.
2. **Members Present:** Chairman Dennis Polselli; Commissioner Lisa Silva; Commissioner Dan Robillard; Commissioner Katie Driscoll

**Others Present:** Sandy Berube Health Department Clerk

**Members Absent:** Vice-Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco & Commissioner Ann O’Neil Souza

1. **Public Input:** No public input.
2. **Approval of the minutes for the meeting of Wednesday, May 14th, 2025**

Motion made by Commissioner Dan Robillard to table the minutes from the Commission on Disability meeting of Wednesday, May 14th, 2025.

Second: Commissioner Lisa Silva

All in favor; none opposed; Abstentions; 0

1. **Approval of the minutes for the meeting of Wednesday, June 11th, 2025**

Motion made by Commissioner Dan Robillard to table the minutes from the Commission on Disability meeting of Wednesday, June 11th, 2025.

Second: Commissioner Katie Driscoll

All in favor; none opposed; Abstentions; 0

1. **Work Group Updates:**
2. **ADA Updates:**

Chairman Dennis Polselli has reached out to the city regarding ADA Improvement Grants that the city may have applied for but has not heard back from them yet. Mr. Polselli will be discussing some ideas with the ADA work group regarding who should be their contact person in the city administration.

Mr. Polselli has reached out to Jeff Dugan asking to be put on the calendar to host a Community Access Monitor Training in 2026. Mr. Polselli and Commissioner Dan Robillard have personally done the Community Access Monitor Training many times and feel as though this is very valuable training. This will cost the commission nothing, all the commission has to do is agree to host the event. This event will be via Zoom. Mr. Polselli would like to work with the administration to get as many city departments as well as City Council members to take advantage of this opportunity. This opportunity will be open to more than just Fall River. The Massachusetts Office on Disability will be handling that. There are no issues if the Southeast Center for Independent Living decides that they would also like to co-host this event as well.

This is a two-day training session, but it does not have to be consecutive, it is generally one day once a week between the hours of 10-3p.m. and then the following week as well. This training will entail an overview of the ADA law titles, an overview of state access laws as well as how to access surveys. There is an in-person hands-on component that is advanced but that comes later.

Commissioner Dan Robillard explains how he would love to see the commission get involved with this training. The commission has previously sponsored this training before, and he believes that at the time Southeast Center for Independent Living was their co-sponsor. Mr. Robillard believes that it was a great success then and even better now that it is virtual. He explains that he would love to see as many Municipal Departments as possible getting involved in this training. Mr. Polselli explains that there will be more details once we can get the actual date. Mr. Robillard states that he is hoping that the second part (Advanced CAM Training) will be in a Fall River location.

1. **Policies:** **Vice-Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco:**

Chairman Dennis Polselli states that the Corporation Council did issue a legal opinion on the Scholarship Program and the response was that’s it is okay to continue with our Scholarship Program as of August 6th. Educating people with disabilities helps and benefits the larger community, education is beneficial to the community. Mr. Polselli indicates that he would like to issue a thank you letter to Corporation Council from the Commission.

Motion made by Commissioner Dan Robillard to accept and file the legal opinion from Corporation Council regarding the Scholarship Program sponsored by the Fall River Commission on Disability dated August 6th, 2025

Second: Katie Driscoll

All in favor; none opposed; Abstentions; 0

1. **Finance: (See Budget Report for June & July 2025)**
2. **Outreach:**

Chairman Dennis Polselli explains that most of the Scholarship Program recipient’s funds have gone to the respective institutions with one transfer that was made from Curry College to UMass Dartmouth.

Commissioner Dan Robillard then states how there have been some changes in City Hall as far as staffing. The Department of Community Maintenance’s Director Charles Denmead has retired, Ines Leite will be the new City Clerk as of September 2025 with the retirement of the current City Clerk Allison Bouchard and Mike Dion has also been named acting City Administrator after the departure of City Administrator Seth Atkins as well as continuing his role in the Community Development Department.

Mr. Polselli asks if someone could help monitor the website. He had no idea that this current Agenda did not appear. Mr. Polselli asks if the new Commissioner Katie Driscoll would be willing to partner with him in running a new Commission on Disability Website Workgroup just to make sure that we get any important information that is Commission on Disability related out to the public.

Commissioner Katie Driscoll agrees to be a part of the Commission on Disability Website Workgroup.

1. **Old Business:** No updates at this time.
2. **New Business:**

Commissioner Katie Driscoll explains how Community Connections will be hosting a yoga series at Bicentennial Park. We have received a charitable donation through the Cordeiro Foundation and are going to be partnering with Heron Yoga to offer this series. This series is scheduled to begin on August 26th and will be held on Tuesdays at 10:00a.m. This program will be recurring for 6 weeks with a rain date built in and will end on October 7th. There will be a flyer being shared through the Community Connections Facebook page with details as well as where you will be able to register for this event. This is a free event that has the intent to bring all types of people together.

Motion made by Dan Robillard to formally move the meeting of September 10th, 2025, to September 17th, 2025.

Second: Katie Driscoll

All in favor; none opposed; Abstentions; 0

1. **Adjournment at 3:38 P.M**

Motion made by Commissioner Dan Robillard to adjourn

Second: Commissioner Lisa Silva

All in favor; none opposed; Abstentions; 0

**Documents Distributed**

Agenda

Budget Report for June & July 2025