

June 8th, 2022, Fitchburg Disability Commission Monthly Meeting
In-Person Meeting@ 1:30pm.

Commission Members:

Bill Tolos, Chair	Present	
Marshal Haneisen		Absent
Dan Cunningham	Present	
Sharon Tardiff		Absent
Doris Matte		Absent
Carolyn Quirk	Present	
Deanna Tardiff		Absent

Amy LeBlanc and Barbara Slattery attended the Fitchburg Disability Commission Meeting.

Item 1: Reading of the Minutes Meeting commenced at 1:30pm.

Item 2: Announcements/Notices/Events:

- a. Join MOD and friends in the Massachusetts disability community for the Disability Summit, an event celebrating the important work our community does to promote accessibility. This year, we're celebrating "Accessibility in a Digital World". Learn how our partners across the Commonwealth are making the digital world an inclusive space for people with disabilities.

Thursday, October 27

10 AM - 1 PM

Mass General Brigham at Assembly Row
399 Revolution Drive | Somerville, MA 02145

Sign up at MOD Website.

- b. Disability Commission Meetings will be held in the **EAST** Meeting Room at Fitchburg City Hall, 718 Main Street the second Wednesday of each month beginning September 8th, 2021 at 1:30pm. If you enter the front door of City Hall, the meeting room will be directly to your **LEFT**. Parking is behind the legislative building off of Wood Place, or on street.
- c. Discussion/Survey was taken on line to move the time of the Disability Commission meetings from 1:30pm to sometime in the morning time frame of 9-10am.

Item 3: Open Forum:

- a. Discussion to hold a Sensory Friendly movie open to people of all abilities in Fitchburg. (Sensory Friendly films provide a friendly accepting environment to all abilities. The Movie Theater will have their lights up, the sound turned down and audience members may get up move around).

- b. Community Mapping thoughts on how to gather information and resources related to the community and how to present the information so everyone can have access to it. Have a permanent location where residents can meet. Tabled for now.

Item 4: Accessible Art Project: Monthly classes are being held at the ARC of Opportunity, and the Senior Center, classes are limited to ten people, due to COVID 19. Working on putting together an Art Exhibit for all the classes to showcase their works. Looking to hold the Art Show sometime in September 2022 at the Fitchburg Senior Center. Classes are ongoing.

Item 5: Revising the Disability Brochure: Discussion to update the Brochure and turn it into a two-sided single panel with just the key contact info. Taking a poll/vote to see if there is a more desirable time to meet. Complete Brochure by next Meeting in July.

Item 6: Crosswalk across Electric Ave., at Old Deerfield Road: Complaint received that there is no curb cut and the crosswalk that is located there is very faded and needs to be repainted. Site visit will be performed to determine what needs to be done. **DPW to be contacted. Crosswalk needs to be re-painted and curb cut added. Waiting for confirmation that this issue has been addressed and is being repaired**

Item 7: Old Business:

- a. Membership: *Ongoing.*
- b. Received complaint: Crosswalk at Main and Mechanic not working, there is no chirping sound, this issue needs to be addressed. Waiting for confirmation that this issue has been addressed and is being repaired. **Confirmation has been received that this chirping issue has been repaired.**
- c. A number of curb cuts were discussed at open forum, there are several curb cuts located throughout the city that need attention, a list will be presented to the Department of Public Works. Some of the streets are listed below: List has been updated.
Rollstone Road needs curb cut.
Caldwell Street handicap spots need curb cut.
Handicap Parking at Anwelt Complex will be reviewed for compliance. **Parking lot is being reviewed for compliance, update at July Meeting.**
Ramp at City Hall. **Being reviewed.**
Status of list to be updated next meeting

Community Access Training:

The **Community Access Monitoring Program** trains you to survey buildings for accessibility and use your skills to advocate for compliance with various rules and regulations. The training covers structural barriers, unequal policies and practices, inaccessible communication, and advocacy techniques for partnering with organizations and individuals to be successful in making communities more accessible to people with disabilities.

This is a 2 day training. Each day is scheduled for 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM on Zoom.

Upcoming dates:

Tuesday, September 13th and Wednesday, September 21st

Hosted by the Acton Commission On Disability

Wednesday, November 2nd and Thursday, November 3rd

Hosted by the Pittsfield Commission On Disability and AD-Lib Center for Independent Living

Sign up at the MOD Website.

Item 8: Motion to adjourn, meeting at 2:45pm. The next meeting will be July 13th, 2022, at 1:30pm, Wednesday, in-person at City Hall.

