

September 21, 2022, Fitchburg Disability Commission Monthly Meeting  
In-Person Meeting@ 1:30pm.

Commission Members:

Bill Tolos, Chair	Present
Marshal Haneisen	Present
Dan Cunningham	Present
Doris Matte	Present
Carolyn Quirk	Present
Barbara Slattery	Present
Tiffany Wells	Present

Amy LeBlanc 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.

**Item 3:** Douglas Bushman, FHA Executive Director, gave a presentation on Fitchburg Housing to include, Day Street, Wallace Towers and Canton Valley and all the improvements/projects that are going on in each housing developments.

**Item 4: Open Forum:**

- a. Handicap Parking at Anwelt Complex was reviewed for compliance. Parking lot has 93 parking spots, 6 are handicapped parking with no van accessibility.
- b. Report by Marshal Haneisen, Ms. Haneisen attended the Disability Regional Meeting, Provided an update on the Fitchburg Disability Commission, accomplishments and projects that the commission is working on.
- c. Discussion of availability of funds for upcoming projects to include: Accessible/Sensory Movie Day, Holiday Ornament Project for people of all abilities, update of funding to be provided at next meeting.
- d. Commission voted to provide funding in the amount of \$100.00, to provide material/supplies to hold an accessible Ink Printing Press class.

**Item 5: 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. The Armory Art Exhibit was held on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September, 15<sup>th</sup> from 10-2pm at the Senior Center 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, the show was very successful, there was a very good turnout for the event. Next Art (Holiday) show is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday and December 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday.

**Item 6:** Fairmount St and B.F. Brown updates. Need to see the plans for B.F. Brown.

**Item 7: Revising the Disability Brochure:** Discussion to update the Brochure and turn it into a two-sided single panel with just the key contact info. Checking into design and cost. Discussion on what contact information should be included.

**Item 8: Nominations and voting for the Officers of the Disability Commission** – Tabled to next meeting in October.

**Item 9: Old Business:**

- a. 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.  
***Crosswalk across Electric Ave., at Old Deerfield Road – Crosswalk at Electric/Deerfield - This has become a very dangerous situation for a visually impaired resident trying to cross the road at Electric/Old Deerfield Rd.***

**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.

**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 10: Motion to adjourn**, meeting at 2:45pm.