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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission on Disability

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### MEETING MINUTES-DRAFT

January 9, 2012

Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

Candace Havens  
Director  
Planning & Development

Community Development  
Senior Planner  
(position currently vacant)

#### Members

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair  
Girard Plante, Co-Chair  
Jane Brown  
Lucie Chansky  
Jini Fairley  
Rosemary Larking  
John Lojek  
Barbara Lischinsky  
Susan Roberts

#### Members Present:

Jane Brown  
Rob Caruso, Co-Chair  
Lucie Chansky  
Jini Fairley  
Girard Plante, Co-Chair  
John Lojek  
Barbara Lischinsky

#### Staff Present:

Nicole Tocci, Inspectional Services

#### Public:

Alice Walkup  
Anne Marie Belrose  
Vassilios Valaes  
Sandra Lingley

#### Regrets:

Rosemary Larking

#### Meeting:

Rob Caruso called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

#### 1. Minutes:

Rob requested that the word "would" be changed to "could" on agenda item # 5 referring to the Letter to Mayor Warren about the hiring of an ADA Coordinator. After making the change the Commission voted to approve the December 12, 2011 meeting minutes.

J. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes and L. Chansky seconded the motion.

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## 2. CDBG Report:

Alice Walkup presents the CDBG report and the discussion begins with pedestrian signals.

B. Lischinsky asks for information on the Washington St project, Dagle Electrical is the contractor; "VHB" is the engineer for a traffic signal study. B. Lischinsky says in her experience the locator tone @ the NWH is useless and states that the time and effort put into the signals it should not sound like a machine gun.

A. Walkup says she will look into changing tone of signal.

## 3. Annual Action Plan

Anne Marie Belrose discusses the Annual Action Plan, funding is cut by 40% & CDBG cut by 17%, Budget cut by a million dollars, indicating that some projects will be cut:

The Bibbo Center is on the market so will not be funded.

Vestibule project at Senior Center – cost \$75,000, sprinkler system would have had to be brought up to code per State Building Code, project was cut due to its high cost for the renovation.

Projects for the next year are recommended to be funded from re-programmed FY11 administrative funds. The total amount, \$104,000, will be used for the Newton Centre Playground Pathway Phase IV (\$40,000), curb cuts (\$55,900) & for access projects to be determined (\$8,000).

J. Lojek explains a little bit further on the budget & how the laws are changing, sprinkler mandates are increasing the cost of projects & there for projects are being dropped or abandoned & as a result handicap accessibility projects are not being completed.

J. Fairley inquires about the projects that were under budget in FY12 & inquiring where the money was. The answer was that that money is spread out.

The Commission was asked to vote on the proposed projects to be undertaken in FY13 and to approve the re-programming of FY11 administrative funds to fund those projects. , L. Chansky made a motion to approve the Annual Action Plan & John seconded the motion, and nearly all members voted in support, with G. Plante opposed.

## 4. Susan Roberts replacement

L. Chansky suggests a possible candidate for Susan's replacement; Leslie Lockhart is active in the community & seems a good fit if she were interested.

J. Lojek mentions that maybe advertising the position would be a good option for a new member of the COD.

J. Brown inquires about the Pack List. L. Chansky said she will put the position on the Pack List when she attends the next meeting.

## **5. HP Space @ West St. (update)**

R. Caruso had driven out to the site at West & informed commission that there is more than 1 space but not 2 & it is marked.

## **6. Community Outreach**

A discussion took place on how to get the word out of what the Commission on Disability does & what they are all about.

G. Plante would like to get the word out to the younger community, so the commission will continue for a long time to come.

R. Caruso would like pamphlets made & distributed to various places, maybe have a table set up at a fair or any event and have brochures set up.

L. Chansky describes & explains about the Patch, the Newton Patch is a local way to get information out to the community, suggests to invite someone from the Patch to a meeting.

R. Caruso & G. Plante would like to see about going on NewTV.

J. Lojek will talk with John Macgillvray a Veterans agent from the Veterans Dept. (City of Newton) about getting on NewTV with him; He appears on the show frequently.

B. Lischinsky talks about the Transportation Advisory Committee (formerly the Fair Housing Task Force & how on the website it speaks a lot about bicycles & bicycle lanes & wants to make sure that the COD is recognized & does not fall by the waste side.

## **7. Chestnut Hill Square:**

Chestnut Hill Square will consist of retail, restaurants & medical offices.

R. Caruso asks J. Lojek for an update on the project. J. Lojek says he has seen the site plan & the building will face Florence St.. The new garage will be on the right hand side from rt 9 & will have HP parking, the above ground 4 story parking lot has a lot more parking than in phase 1. J. Lojek explains that the project is so large & how there is a separate group inspecting & looking at the plans from ISD.

J. Lojek also explains that the outside consultant from that group has extensive knowledge about what the AAB requires & expects and that a professional is hired to deal with all aspects in project.

## **8. Chestnut Hill Shopping Center**

J. Lojek describes The Chestnut Hill Mall as a pretty ambitious plan and is pedestrian friendly & has a lot of accessibility features.

The movie theater has AAB access & there will be an increase on the number of HP spaces as needed.

## **9. Riverside Station:**

R. Caruso asks about the development on Riverside Station and G. Plante asks J. Lojek if they can voice their opinion at a meeting for Riverside.

J. Lojek responds by saying that it's not at that stage yet & that they are trying to change the zone at the Riverside location.

G. Plante speaks about how the neighbors of the Riverside Station are not in favor of the project & that he is a concerned citizen about the overcrowded area.

The discussion continues about Riverside being a potential 40B with 500 units of housing. R. Caruso asks J. Lojek of an example of a 40B in Newton. Avalon was the example given.

## **10. Other Business:**

Vassilios Valaes attended the meeting to present his concerns on the handicap parking spaces on Hull St at the NNHS, he lives in the vicinity of the spaces on Hull St.

J. Lojek explains how the City got a variance for a ramp & walkway leading from the handicap spaces on Hull St to the tennis courts. The variance was approved and the walkway and ramp were put in but the handicap spots as Mr. Valaes pointed out are not designated as handicap.

j. Lojek, L. Chansky & J. Brown discussed going on a site visit before the next meeting to better acquaint themselves with the particular area in question and report their findings at the Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.