



CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Meeting Notes – January 9, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Ralph DeCicco - Chair Pauline Perno - Vice Chair

Email: disabilities@revere.org Phone: 781-286-8267

Meeting Will Broadcast Live Via Zoom, Revere TV & Revere TV YouTube Channel

Please click the link below to join the webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88270277148>

Or Telephone: US: +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID 882 7027 7148

(Revere TV YouTube Recoded 1-9-24 Meeting link)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6-7EdvbyGQ&list=PLIYqBh7a_8bz_jaLbb_Lgl-ee_7wqGYDE

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Members Present - Ralph DeCicco, Pauline Perno, Jason Barone, Mario Grimanis, Ellie Vargas **Absent:** Asmaa Al Fouda, Robert Brown,

Item #1: Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2023 - Made by Jason Barone & Seconded by Mario Grimanis

Item #2: Guest Speaker: Pat Cameron will be joining us. She is from the Federation for Children with Special Needs.

Item #3: Updates/Next Steps from December 12, 2023 Meeting

- **Updates from Pauline regarding calendar for future monthly guest speakers. P Mentioned that she is waiting for confirmation from a few people.**

Item #4: CODA (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance)-Monthly Zoom Meeting on Wednesday January 3. (Not ready in time for posting. Will provide details during meeting)

- **The Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) discussed that on Thursday 1/4/24 the State Senate will be discussing and voting on the Wheelchair Warranty repair bill.**
- **DPC also mentioned that they will be having a meeting next Wednesday 1/10/24 to discuss and promote advocacy plans for accessible and affordable housing.**
- **Discussions were had regarding what APEX Curb cuts are. And where and why they are used.**
- **Cities and towns also reiterated that COD's do not have any official power or authority by law. CODs are there to provide resources and any applicable information they can.**
- **A Commission member from Newburyport mentioned two items that could be useful for people with disabilities. They are www.accessnavigators.com which is web based company and their community is a part of and the second is an app that was also mentioned on Chronicle www.ahoimate.com. Newburyport is currently a part of access navigators. Both sites are set up or can be set up to show the accessibility and accommodations of places such as restaurants and businesses have in a community.**

Item #5: SEPAC January/February Events

No Update- Robert Brown was not in attendance for the meeting.

Item #6: Vice Chair Pauline Perno Discussion on “Silent Disabilities” and the impact everyday ignorance has. – Tabled to February 13th meeting.

Item #7: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is seeking Comments on Special Ed Procedures:

The Department has drafted updated procedures as part of its continuous efforts to improve its system of [General Supervision](#) under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and is seeking public comment on these drafts. The draft procedures include school monitoring procedures and Problem Resolution System Office procedures. [Links to the draft procedures](#) are posted on DESE's special education webpage.

The public comment period will close on Friday, January 26. Written comments may be submitted by:

- Survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7651351/Draft-OASES-PRS-PSM-Procedures-Public-Comment-12-23>
- Email: SpecialEducation@doe.mass.edu
- Mail:
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of Special Education Planning and Policy
135 Santilli Highway
Everett, MA 02149
- Fax: 781-338-3371

In addition, the Special Education Advisory Panel will meet virtually to provide input on these draft procedures at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 24. The meeting will include a public comment portion from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. More information about the SEAP meeting, including directions for providing public comment during the meeting, can be found at this [link](#).

Item #8: Commission Members Late Items/Information: Chair DeCicco mentioned that we received an email and phone communication from Teri Koopman who is the Outreach Specialist from DCR. She wanted to thank us for mentioning The DCR Adaptive Winter programs at our December meeting. She had seen the article in the Journal. She also mentioned contacting her if we need any assistance or information.

Item #9: Residents' concerns/issues- NONE

Item #10: Next Steps:

- Item #6 Carried over to Meeting Agenda on February 13th, 2024.

Item #11: Reminder –

The Commission on Disabilities office number is 781-286-8267. Residents can also call Revere 311 directly and speak to their staff Monday through Friday. They will answer most questions, but if they are unable to or if you want to speak to our department directly or schedule an appointment, please ask to be transferred to the Disability office. If we are unavailable, please leave a detailed message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

As always, please tell us if you want something discussed or added to our monthly meeting agenda. You can let us know if you would like to speak on any issue or concern. The Commission is here to help and assist all the disabled residents and families of Revere.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Jason Barone & Seconded by Mario Grimanis

Next Meeting: (Via Zoom) will be Tuesday February 13, 2024 at 6:00 PM