



CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Meeting Notes – August 8, 2023 @ 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/879 9134 6824](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87991346824)

Or Telephone: US: +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID 879 9134 6824

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Members Present - Ralph DeCicco, Pauline Perno, Jason Barone, Robert Brown, Mario Grimanis Sofia Marmouda (Student Liaison) Absent: Asmaa Al Fouda, Ellie Vargas

Item #1: Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from June 13, 2023 Made By Jason Barone & Second by Mario Grimanis

Item #2: Guest Speaker- Meg Bandarra- Founder of Unpaved Trails For All – She gave a presentation and Commission members made two separate motions and were approved:

- **First Motion was made by Jason Baroone & Seconded by Mario Grimanis that the Revere COD be part of Unpaved Trails for All initiative and send a letter on behalf of our Commission to include in their package to the State Legislature. – Approved By Commission**
- **Second Motion was Made by Jason Baroone & Seconded by Mario Grimanis that the Revere Commission of Disabilities ask the Revere City Council sign, support and send A RESOLUTION In Support of An Act Expanding Access To Trails For People of All Abilities (Bills S.446 & H.7690) To the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (Both Bils are identical) at the State House.**

Item #3: Updates/Next Steps from June Monthly Meeting

- **Any Updates from Pauline regarding calendar for future monthly guest speakers-**
- **Any Follow up/ Update information regarding Therapy Dog agencies from Pauline or Robert.**
- **Revisit HP Violation Fines increase Draft letter tabled from last meeting.**

Item #4: Massachusetts Office on Disabilities (MOD) Zoom Meeting July 18, 2023 (1-3 PM). Meeting discussed Emergency Management that includes People with Access and Functional Needs in th event of an emergency within your community.

Part I: Overview of Municipal Emergency Management

1:00 - 2:00 PM

- **How emergency management works in Massachusetts**
- **Developing municipal emergency plans**
- **Individual emergency preparedness**

Part II: Practical Steps to Improve Your Emergency Plan

2:00 - 3:00 PM

- **Practical steps to make your city/town's emergency plan more inclusive of people with disabilities and access and functional needs**
- **How disability advocates and emergency management directors can best exchange feedback**

Item #5: Massachusetts Office on Disabilities MOD Statewide COD/ADA Zoom Meeting July 19, 2023 10 AM-1:30 PM Discussions included:

- **AG Open Meeting Laws updates**
- **ADA Regulations**
- **City & Town Reasonable Accommodations at Public meetings**
- **MODS Reasonable Accommodations after the end of the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency**
- **Disability Placard Provisions and Penalties under the Registry of Motor Vehicles Provisions M.G.L. c. 90, § 2. Along with how to report Placard misuse and abuse.**

Item #6: SEPAC August/September Events

- **Election of Officers is August 20th**
- **The first meeting is scheduled for August 27th(They are trying to increase their numbers for participation.**

Item #7: CODA (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance)-Monthly Zoom Meeting on Wednesday August 2nd 2023

The State Budget came out this week

- **AHVP (Alternate Housing Voucher Program) got 26M in funding! Still needs to be approved by the governor, you can contact the governor online to urge her to sign.**
- **Process has been delayed significantly so it should likely pass**
- **Change in language to allow people to use vouchers connected to accessible apartments**
- **Also, programs pertaining to medical equipment for repair or refurbishing received funds in the Budget**
- **DPC, BCIL, and MDDC hosting a leadership Summit of September 29-30 in Marlborough Named for Paul Spooner, a big force in the MA disability community**
- **Approximately 20 people will be brought together. They are currently looking for people who want to participate and become advocates for the disability community. Anyone interested can contact R Freyman at DPC**
- **On August 8, 2023 – The AAB (Architectural Access Board) publishes Final rule for PROWAG (Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines) in the Federal Register. provides minimum guidelines for the accessibility of pedestrian facilities in the public right-of-way. These guidelines, once adopted, would ensure that facilities used by pedestrians, such as sidewalks and crosswalks, constructed or altered in the public right-of-way by Federal, state, and local Governments are readily accessible to and usable by pedestrians with disabilities. When the guidelines are adopted, with or without modifications, as accessibility standards in regulations issued by other Federal agencies implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Architectural Barriers Act, compliance with those**

- enforceable accessibility standards is mandatory. The final rule is effective September 7, 2023. These final rules will also be taken up by the Department of Justice (DOJ)**
- **Discussions about Self-evaluation and Transition Plans by cities and towns**

Item #8: Zoom Meeting State House- Hearing for Joint Committee on State Administration & Regulatory Oversight. July 26 1 PM -5 PM. Ralph DeCicco attended this hearing remotely and gave both verbal and written testimony in favor of bills H.3040/S.2024. Both of these bills would allow to modernize participation in public meetings. I, however, gave my testimony as a regular citizen and not in any official municipal capacity but did mention my role in the city of Revere.

Item #9: Commission Members Late Items/Information - NONE

Item #10: Residents' concerns/issues - NONE

Item #11: Next Steps:

- **Letters to be sent as mentioned in Item # 2**

Item #12: 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 be able to answer most questions but if they are unable to or if you would like a call back from our department, please ask to be transferred to the Disability offices voicemail and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

As always please let us know if you would like something discussed or brought up and 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 & Second by Pauline Perno

Next Meeting: (Via Zoom) will be Tuesday September 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM