

Disability Commission Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Meeting Convened and called to order at 6 p.m.

Members Present

Kim Hopewell, Marcia Cairns, Ronald Menard, Michael McConville, Lisa Thompson, Jeff Dougan- MOD

Members Absent

Patrick Crowley

Invited Guest

Jeff Dougan, MOD

- **Disability Rights Laws** in Mass is Updating protects for Architectural Access Board –
 - Gen Laws Chapter 22 S 13 A 521 CMR- Architectural access board; members; terms; rules and regulations; penalties; review; definitions
- **Federal Authorities Barriers Act**
 - **The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA)** requires access to facilities that are designed, built, altered, or leased with Federal funds. The Access Board is the federal agency responsible for enforcing the ABA.
 - The Fed - Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§ 4151--57)
 - Standards issued under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) apply to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with federal funds. Passed in 1968, the ABA is one of the first laws to address access to the built environment. The law applies to federal buildings, including post offices, social security offices, federal courthouses and prisons, and national parks. It also covers non-federal facilities, such as public housing units and mass transit systems, built or altered with federal grants or loans.
 - Four agencies establish the ABA Standards according to guidelines issued by the Access Board: the General Services Administration (GSA),

the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

- www.federalreserve.gov/architectural-barriers-act.htm
- The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Compliant Investigation Process and Corrective Action Plan Procedure

- **Service Animals**

- Beginning on March 15, 2011, only dogs are recognized as service animals under titles II and III of the ADA. Now they allow Miniature horses
- Generally, title II and title III entities must permit service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas where members of the public are allowed to go.
- In addition to the provisions about service dogs, the Department's ADA regulations **have** a separate provision about miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. (Miniature horses generally range in height from 24 inches to 34 inches measured to the shoulders and generally weigh between 70 and 100 pounds.) Entities covered by the ADA must modify their policies to permit miniature horses where reasonable.
- A service animal must be under the control of its handler. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

- **Transition Plans** are a requirement now under the new Title II
Towns are required to complete a Transition Plan to identify structural changes. This is a self-evaluation.

- **National ADA Symposium Center**
conducts seminars throughout the year for members of Commissions to keep them informed of the changes in laws and regulations. There will be a new seminar coming up in August. This will be in a Virtual format and you sign up

on line through the ADA.gov website.

- **Variances and Complaints-**

the Commission will get notice and 14 days for feed back for support or non-support. The Commission can also contact Boston for further assistance if needed.

- We are considered part of the Architectural Access Board
- We can give feedback to the Planning Board

- **Outdoor Dining**

- Table height 34" maximum, 28" minimum
- Knee clearance 27" minimum (from floor to bottom of table surface)
- Clear floor area of 30" by 48" needed at each seating area
- Knee clearance extends at least 19" under the table

- **Statewide Contracts**

- Procurements
- Service Requirements
- EOSS
- Vetted Vendors
- Audio and Video
- Training
- Captioning
- Brail

- **Virtual Trainers**

- **Handicapped Parking Regulations**

- As per Ch 40 S 22G reviewed

- **Virtual training seminars**

- Held throughout the year for Commission members

Next Meeting June 14, 2022, 6pm Town Hall, 140 Worcester Street.

Motioned and seconded to Adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim D. Hopewell
Co-Chair