

COD Meeting Notes January 12, 2021 7:00 PM VIA Zoom

Attendees Include:

Megan Baker, Diane DeNapoli, Jeff Dougan, Stephanie Gertz, Keith Jermyn, Maria O'Laughlin

- Meeting Called to Order/ Meeting began late due to technical issue with Zoom
- Opening comments and the board unanimously voted to approve the December 2020 meeting notes.
- Chair DeNapoli introduced Jeff Dougan, Assistant Director on Disabilities. Jeff reviewed a wide range of commission related information. Links to all the information he discussed can be found below.

Materials:

1. [MOD Brochure of Services](#) – From our [Publications Page](#)
 1. [Client Assistance Program \(CAP\) Brochure](#)
 2. [Community Services Brochure](#)
2. [Establish a Commission on Disability Webpage:](#)
 1. The information provided on this webpage discusses the process for establishing a COD in a community and how and what COD's can do if the town enacts MGL Chapter 40 Section 22G.
 2. Local Officials Guide – [Best Practice for Establishing a COD](#)
 3. [Benefits of Establishing a COD](#)
3. [MGL Chapter 40 Section 8J](#)
 1. This is the MGL that is adopted to formally establish a COD.
4. [MGL Chapter 40 Section 22G](#)
 1. This allows an "8J" COD to collect the fines collected for people illegally parking in accessible ("HP") spaces.
5. [Disability Rights Laws in Massachusetts Booklet](#) - From our [Publications Page](#)
 1. This is a great resource to have on hand. It provides a lot of basic information pertaining to laws related to disability in MA.
6. [COD Description, Bylaws, and Goals](#) – From our [Publications Page](#)
7. [ADA Homepage](#)
 1. This webpage is a landing page for all things related to ADA! Very handy to have bookmarked.
8. [DOJ's FAQ on Service Animals](#)
9. [ADA Title II Action Guide](#)
 1. This is a great, but intense, discussion related to the ADA Title II 5 administrative requirements.

10. [ADA Checklist](#)
 1. This is a very useful tool to use to see if an architectural element meets the requirements of the ADA Design Standards.
11. [The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board](#)
 1. This is the State Agency that promulgates and enforces the specialized state building code related to accessibility (521 CMR).
12. Tax Incentives for Small Businesses – ATTACHED
 1. This incentive has some restrictions and only applies to for-profit businesses; but makes a great ice breaker if you are working with a local business to increase communication or architectural accessibility.
13. Disability Demographics:
 1. [Disability Demographics](#) (based on ACS and 2010 Census, produced by MOD) – From our [Publications Page](#)
 2. [Disability in New England](#) (based on model based definition of disability, produced by [New England ADA Center](#))
14. [Independence Associates, Inc.](#) (This ILC serves Hingham) – ([All Independent Living Centers in Massachusetts](#))
15. Massachusetts Information and Technology – [Accessibility Webpage](#)
 1. [Statewide IT Accessibility Services Contract \(ITS61\)](#) - It is my understanding that since this is available for State Agencies to use, this also filters down to the municipal level as well!
 2. [Enterprise IT Accessibility Standards](#)
 3. [Web Accessibility Standards](#)
16. [Project Civic Access](#) (Found on [ADA.Gov](#)):
 1. [ADA Enforcement by DOJ](#) - Covers all DOJ Settlement Agreements with Entities. This particular item is separate from the Project Civic Access Actions DOJ has taken.
 2. [Country Wide Settlements](#) – Project Civic Access Specific
 3. [MA Settlements](#) - Project Civic Access Specific
17. MOD Fact Sheets
 1. [Outdoor Dining/Seating Fact Sheet](#)
 2. [Parking Fact Sheet](#)
 3. [COVID-19 ADA Municipal Reminder Memo to ADA Coordinators and COD Chairs](#)
 4. [Guidance – Accessibility for Virtual Training](#)
18. [MOD's Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Program](#)

- Questions to be address from Jeff's overview are:
 - Can a COD receive a contribution since we are not set up as a 501(c)?
 - Does Hingham have any "Emergency Preparedness" plan for people with disabilities
 - Does Hingham collect funds from out HP tickets?

- Keith Jermyn left before the end of the meeting since he had to engage in another meeting.

- The board discussed general communication and confirmed the next COD meeting will be held via Zoom on 2/9/21.

- Notes prepare by Diane DeNapoli