

Daniel A. Micari, Commissioner, Chairperson
Tracy Beland, Commissioner
Ruth Ann Graime, Commissioner, Secretary
Kristen Granatek, Commissioner
Greg Klimek, Commissioner
Joseph Krolikowski, Commissioner
Heather Woodbury, Commissioner
Mary Fortier, City Council Liaison



**Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Bristol, CT 06010**

**Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2019**

7:00 PM - Bristol City Hall First Floor Meeting Room

Our Mission

To Promote The Integration And Participation of Persons With Disabilities by Creating Economic, Housing, Political, And Social Opportunities Through Community Partnerships.

Present: Micari, Fortier, Beland, Graime, Granatek, Klimek, Krolikowski, Woodbury

Absent: none

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: The December 12, 2018 minutes was approved (Klimek, Krolikowski).

Presentation: Larry Covino, Bristol Schools Supervisor of Adult Education

Bristol Adult Education consists of two components, high school completion and continuing education. In the former, three programs are available to receive a high school diploma: GED, the credit diploma program, and the National External Diploma Program. The goal of each is to provide workforce training skills to move individuals into careers. Additional offerings are English as a second language and Citizenship. All classes are free, with funding received from the city (45%) and state (54.5%). Lack of transportation to each site (Redstone Hill, St. Joseph, Southside School) remains a key issue. Continuing Education offers a variety of special interest classes, including health and recreation, the arts, computer instruction, driver education, and a variety of personal interest courses. Mr. Covino continues to be receptive to additional suggestions for high school completion and continuing education components.

New/Current Business

*Commissioner Klimek will chair the February meeting in Chairman Micari's absence.

*Chairman Micari confirmed that public service announcements will be posted by Commissioner Beland in the Bristol Press, Observer, and Roundup.

*Regarding the Commission website, Commissioner Granatek and Beland acknowledged that the site needs considerable work in making it user-friendly. Goals include an update of mission and membership list, categorizing resource links, and a general reformatting. They expect to provide a progress report at each meeting.

Dave McAlister, Rotary Club President, discussed the timing of crosswalks in the City and proposed a change to the current 15-20 seconds, which is not sufficient for a person with disabilities to cross. Chairman Micari plans to contact Public Works and Traffic Departments to determine the possibility of increased timing.

*Commissioners proposed topics of interest to present to Police and Fire Departments speakers at the February 13 meeting. These have been compiled and will be sent in advance by Commissioner Graime.

*Future presentations have been confirmed: Dave McAllister (Rotary, March); Sue Salter (Independence Unlimited, April). Commissioner Beland agreed to contact Lisa and Warren Corson of Pillwillop Farm for May or June.

*Next presentation: Bristol Police and Fire Department Staff--POSTPONED

Old Business

*Regarding sidewalk replacement on Divinity Street, Councilor Fortier related information from City Engineer Ray Rogozinski that work will begin in the spring by Laviero Contractors. Chairman Micari noted the direct outcome of a citizen complaint, followed by the Commission working with the City on behalf of the citizen. Commissioner Granatek identified this action as a marketing opportunity and suggested a press release. Councilor Fortier agreed that this will provide visibility for the Commission and advised that BDA be contacted to determine procedure.

*Councilor Fortier updated on the snowplowing at Friendly's. The manager explained that the Board of Education no longer clears the sidewalks for busses. Currently, individual businesses on Farmington Avenue and Dorothy Road have a contract for snow removal.

Correspondence

none

Public Participation

none

Motion to adjourn: Klimek/Granatek **Meeting adjourned:** 9:05 PM

Next meeting: February 13, 2019 at 7:00 PM First Floor Meeting Room

Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary