

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



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

**Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2021**

7:00 PM – Virtual Meeting

Our Mission

To promote inclusion and improve the quality of life for people in Bristol with a disability, by providing a network of partnerships with local resources that foster self-sufficiency, dignity, and respect

Present: Micari, Fortier, Beland, Ewings, Graime, Granatek, Klimek, Krolikowski
Absent: None

Call to order: 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: The February 10, 2021 minutes was approved.

Presentation: Snow Peng, ADA Coordinating Engineer at CT Department of Transportation: The Benefits of ADA Accessibility and the DOT ADA Transition Plan

A civil engineering background prepared Xiaoxue (Snow) for the multidimensional demands of her DOT position. She explained ADA as society's moral and economic obligation to remove barriers to quality of life for every age and ability (no barriers, no disability). Lawsuits continue to emerge in regard to building and land utilization as well as web accessibility. Prevention of litigation of course requires proactive thinking.

Transition planning: The DOT website shows a photo log of ADA transition plans. Businesses of 50 or more employees are required to develop ADA transition plans for structural changes. Cases of unfeasibility in altering constraints must be documented; DOT considers these claims and may reduce penalties. For ADA traffic complaints, contact DOT.traffic@ct.gov. Snow can be reached at snow.peng@ct.gov or 860-944-0025.

New/Current Business

- *Councilor Fortier contacted the police department in regard to ongoing inaccessibility problems near the Eblens property on Route 6; followup when available.
- *Future guest presentations: Chairman Micari to reschedule City Planner Robert Flanagan and to contact Deborah Dorfman, new Executive Director of Disability Rights CT; Commissioner Graime to contact Larry Covino.
- *Commissioner Granatek renewed the topic of a police registry of persons with disabilities (previously tabled by the Commission on 9-9-20) but which remains a controversial issue. According to Commissioner Klimek, the Legislature has tabled this issue for 8 months pending further research. Councilor Fortier stated that Mayor Zoppo-Sassu is on the Police Training and Standards Advisory Group and may be able to shed light on this topic at a later time.
- *Commissioners Beland and Granatek discussed the new Spotlight feature on Bristol All Heart. Heather Hitchcock of Bristol Hospital is the first to be spotlighted.

Old Business

None

Correspondence

A note was sent to Snow Peng in thanks for her wide-ranging and informative presentation. At Chairman Micari's request, she sent her Powerpoint slides for future reference.

Public Participation

A discussion ensued pertinent to Snow Peng's presentation.

Motion to adjourn: Klimek, seconded **Meeting adjourned:** 8:30 PM

Next meeting: April 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM, held virtually

Submitted by,
Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary

