

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
April 14, 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, Ewings, Graime, Granatek, Klimek

Absent: Beland, Krolikowski

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

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

Presentation: Jacqueline Strawson, Outreach Coordinator, Bristol Adult Education

Jacquie began her overview of Bristol's adult education initiatives with the announcement of the administration of Southington's adult ed program, a partnership that will enable regionalization, shared services, and increased grant opportunities.

The Workforce Opportunity Act is mandated by law to lead to sustainable income. Bristol adult ed teaches employability skills to ages 17-62. The National External Diploma Program for older clients allows credit for life experience; its task-based requirements are overseen by an assessor.

A manufacturing pre-apprenticeship training program is offered. Additional programs include ESL, citizenship, literacy, computer training, driver education, and leisure enrichment classes (after pandemic). A major problem at the Redstone Hill location is the lack of a bus route to the facility; an eventual move to a more accessible location is a possibility.

New/Current Business

- *Regarding the addition of “accommodation language” to the Commission webpage, minutes, and agenda: Chairman Micari asked Commissioners to devise a statement that welcomes all individuals to our meetings and to request any needed accommodations for attendance.
- *Discussion on relevant articles to include on the Commission website: the consensus is for information on self-advocacy, assistive tech, legal issues, and voting rights. For further topics, see the DRCT link to its resource list: <https://www.disrightsct.org/resource-center>
- *For the initial Spotlight feature on the Bristol All Heart site, Councilor Fortier suggested that Autism Acceptance Month be the issue presented for April.
- *The topic of the Police Registry will be postponed until September. A decision will be made at that time to address it or to once again table it. Commissioner Granatek agreed to circulate additional information on this issue.
- *Chairman Micari discussed the role of the City’s ADA Coordinator Mark Penney, and noted that he will be reaching out to Mr. Penney, to enlist his collaboration in advancing City-wide ADA initiatives, in concert with our Commission.
- *For an upcoming presentation, Councilor Fortier suggested contacting the architect of the new City Hall in regard to ADA accessibility compliance. Chairman Micari agreed to speak with Public Works Director Ray Rogozinski to determine his availability.

Old Business

None

Correspondence

None

Public Participation

None

Motion to adjourn: Klimek, seconded

Meeting adjourned: 8:25 PM

Next meeting: May 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM, held virtually

Presentation: Disability Rights CT

Submitted by,
Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary

