

Revere Commission on Disabilities Meeting Notes
Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 6 PM

PRESENT: Ralph DeCicco; David Hahey; Enza Goodwin; Olivia Ferrante; Paul Mazzone
MODERATOR: Joseph Gravellese, Mayor's Office

Item #1: Explanation of the role and purpose of the commission, including a reading of the Mission Statement

Item #2: Discussion of the administrative structure of the Commission

Item #3: Explanation of the Handicap parking sign process

- Forms to apply for handicap parking signs will be available in the Mayor's office, at the future site of the Disabilities office, and online at <http://www.revere.org/departments/commission-on-disabilities>
- Residents will apply through the Commission on Disabilities, which will make favorable or unfavorable recommendations based on eligibility criteria to the Traffic Commission
- Generally speaking, in order to qualify for a handicap parking sign, residents must have a handicap placard, have a vehicle registered in their name, and not have a handicap-accessible driveway
- The Commission will also take time to review currently posted signs to ensure eligible residents still reside at that location
- Eligibility for handicap signs will be reviewed each year

Item #4: Discussion of plans for a Constituent Services office

- The Commission has been in communication with the Revere League for Special Needs about utilizing space at their building on Winthrop Ave. as a constituent service office.
- **MOTION: The Commission voted unanimously to invite Michelle DeMauro, Revere League for Special Needs, to appear before the next Commission meeting on 2-14-17**
- The office would be a place where residents can drop in to access information about services available for residents with disabilities. An email address is already set up, disabilities@revere.org, to handle these inquiries

Item #5: Call for Volunteers

- The Commission reiterated that volunteers will be needed to staff the Constituent services office once it is open, as well as to provide equipment that can be lent to disabled residents
- **MOTION: The Commission voted unanimously to invite representatives from Mystic Valley Elder Services to appear at the next meeting to discuss opportunities for collaboration**

Item #6: Open forum

- Residents were invited to discuss issues of importance to them regarding disability issues in Revere. Public comments included:
 - The need for improved traffic light signalization, including walk signs that beep/talk to aid blind pedestrians
 - Accessibility to Revere Beach
 - Sidewalk clearance during snow emergencies
 - Sidewalk parking by residents on city streets, inhibiting pedestrian access
 - Construction of fencing at playgrounds for safety of autistic children
 - The possibility of establishing a revolving account to fund disability-related initiatives funded by handicap parking violations
 - Improved road safety on Squire Rd.
 - Expanding Special Olympics in Revere to include older children
 - Installation of street signs warning residents of autistic children on a street
 - Joe Gravellese from the Mayor's office will discuss this issue with Traffic Commission