

Daniel A. Micari, Commissioner, Chairperson
Tracy Beland, Commissioner
Gloria Ewings, Commissioner
Ruth Ann Graime, Commissioner, Secretary
Greg Klimek, Commissioner
Joseph Krolikowski, Commissioner
Commissioner Vacancy
Jacqueline Olsen, City Council Liaison



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

**Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2022**

7:00 PM – Bristol Public Library, Community Room 2 and Virtual Format

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

Reasonable Accommodation Statement

The Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities is committed to equal access to, and participation in, all meetings and Commission-sponsored programs and events. Individuals who require an accommodation in order to fully participate, including physical access, communication assistance, or other special need, should contact Daniel A. Micari at damicari@yahoo.com, at least seven business days prior to the scheduled meeting, program, or event.

Present: Micari, Olsen, Beland, Ewings, Graime, Krolikowski

Absent: Klimek

Call to order: 7:10 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: No business meeting occurred

Presentation: Members of the Deaf Community

The six individuals who attended, along with ASL Interpreter Jon Sahlin, responded to questions submitted in advance by Chairman Micari. They shared their life experiences in regard to education, work, and living with deafness. The group emphasized that each person's Deaf experience is unique to that individual. Preferred communication modes include writing, texting, gesturing, lip reading, and in some situations, avoidance. Advocacy remains a major concern, e.g., fighting for accommodations, for the right to demand a Certified ASL Interpreter, for doctors/attorneys/first responders to be more conscious of needs and priorities. One individual discussed a medical situation, in which he declined to interpret for

a family member because that role competed with his advocacy on that person's behalf. In a final statement, Commissioner Beland affirmed the Commission's advocacy function and invited the group to enlist our support.

New/Current Business

Due to the length of the presentation and discussion, new and current business was postponed to the January meeting.

Old Business

None

Correspondence

None

Public Participation

None

Motion to adjourn: Klimek/Ewings, passed. **Meeting adjourned:** 8:45 PM

Next meeting: January 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM, Bristol Main Public Library

Presentation: None scheduled

**Submitted by,
Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary**

