

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
Jacqueline Olsen, City Council Liaison



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

**Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2022**

7:00 PM – Bristol City Hall First Floor Meeting Room 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, Ewings, Graime, Granatek, Klimek, Krolikowski

Absent: Beland

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

Approval of Minutes: The December 8, 2021 minutes were approved (Klimek)

Presentation: Scott Heth, Executive Director, CT Environmental Learning Center
Scott illustrated the Wallace Barnes Nature Trail project, a fully ADA-accessible trail set to break ground in April 2022 (Earth Day), with anticipated completion in two years. The project will enable the immersion into nature for visitors of every age and ability. A CT Trails Grant is being pursued. Scott requested a letter of support by the Commission, which Chairman Micari agreed to provide. Councilor Olsen informed that American Rescue Plan Act funding is available. Scott also explained that the City of Bristol is a partner in the prospective joint purchase and protection of 62 acres of land adjacent to the Nature Center (Seymour Park), to be managed for wildlife habitat protection and education.

New/Current Business

- *Regarding the Motion passed in the previous meeting (for the Commission to provide **referrals** to resources rather than **direct assistance** to individuals), Chairman Micari clarified that he indeed provided the individual with relevant information to pursue independently. The overriding intention is to arm people with resources. A Commissioner recognized that this is precisely what the Commission had been doing all along and that the danger of “overstepping boundaries” was not a concern. The wording of the Motion therefore remained unchanged.
- *Snow removal on City sidewalks: While West Street is a state road, the City will maintain it, according to Public Works Director Ray Rogozinski.
- *Proposed public forum on Transportation Services: grant funding is anticipated from the ADA-CT. Commissioner Graime will follow up with Jeremy Scalzi of M7 Transportation to determine interest in participating.

Old Business

None

Correspondence

None

Public Participation

- *Mary LaFountain informed that the Bristol Buggy Riders are searching for a larger space, due to the increase in membership. Chairman Micari suggested contacting The Bridge Church.
- *Lorraine French related her experience of inaccessibility and insufficient assistance at Bristol Hospital. After reporting her concerns to Patient-Advocate Andrea Adams, her second visit had vastly improved. Lorraine expressed the need for on-going advocacy relative to accessibility in Bristol.

Motion to adjourn: Klimek, seconded **Meeting adjourned:** 9:00 PM

Next meeting: February 9, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Presentation: Ray Rogozinski, Bristol Director of Public Works

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

