

Daniel A. Micari, Commissioner, Chairperson
Tracy Beland, Commissioner
Barbara Bajurny, Commissioner
Andrew Collins, Commissioner
Gloria Ewings, Commissioner
Ruth Ann Graime, Commissioner, Secretary
Joseph Krolkowski, Commissioner
Jacqueline Olsen, City Council Liaison



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

**Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023**

7:00 PM – Bristol Public Library Community 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, Bajurny, Collins, Ewings, Graime, Olsen

Absent: Beland, Krolkowski

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

Approval of Minutes: September 13, 2023 (Ewings/Collins, passed)

Presentations: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano

Update on City Projects

Kevin McCauley and Jolene Lusitani, Registrars of Voters

Ballot Review and Demonstration of Adaptive Voting

*Mayor Caggiano described the ongoing changes to Downtown, noting the imminent official opening of City Hall, date to be announced. He stressed the building's full accessibility, including entrances and ample parking areas. Other projects include Wheeler Health with an expected March opening, the Carrier Project for its four-story retail and restaurant initiative with a "West Hartford

Center” vibe, a downtown zoning change to a live-work space. Parking areas will include the Hope Street garage with 190 spaces to be shared with Main Street businesses. ADA accessible apartments will be built on the former Chic Miller site, once that property is demolished and cleaned. Another cleanup is planned in January/February 2024 at the Sessions building as part of the Riverside Avenue upgrade. New restaurants: Chicken & Waffles open on Riverside Avenue and another sit-down restaurant to be announced; a second Café Real has opened on Route 6. On October 21, the new City Hall, completed on time, under budget, and completely ADA compliant, will be rededicated.

Chairman Micari thanked Mayor Caggiano for providing the ASL interpreter to Commission meetings.

*Registrars Kevin McCauley and Jolene Lusitani distributed sample ballots and demonstrated the Adaptive Voting System with touch screen access. An audio version is available as well at all polling locations. A spouse or poll worker is permitted to assist the voter. Ballots are then brought to the tabulator and counted with the regular ballots. Procedures for deaf-blind persons have not yet been established. Camera surveillance will be implemented at all voting boxes. The Registrars responded to all questions and concerns from Commissioners and visitors.

*Chairman Micari reported that the Senior Center Health Fair attracted several visitors to the Commission table. He followed up on their questions or concerns. The event provided another opportunity to become familiar with the Commission.

*ASL Interpreter Jon Sahlin reported that the November 11 ASL Palooza has sponsorships available and asked everyone to help promote the event. This will be a learning experience for him in hopes that it becomes an annual event.

Old Business

Commissioner Bajurny sent the names of persons who need smoke detectors to Chief Hart. Chairman Micari acknowledged her initiative in implementing this project.

Correspondence

None

Public Participation

Paul Norton updated the Commission on his ongoing conflicts and expressed the certainty that his experience has implications for others with access issues.

Motion to adjourn: Ewings/Collins, passed **Meeting adjourned:** 9:00 PM
Next meeting: November 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM, City Hall, Room 114 on 1st floor

Submitted by Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary

