

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



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

**Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2023**

7:00 PM – City Hall, 1st Floor Conference Rm 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, Krolikowski

Absent: Beland, Olsen

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

Approval of Minutes: November, 2023 (Krolikowski/Ewings, passed)

Jaymie Bianca, Director of OpportunAbility; Chair, Bristol Diversity Council
SPEAKER CANCELLED

New Business

*Interpreter Jon Sahlin expressed his gratefulness for the success of the **First Annual ASL Palooza** on November 11. With an attendance of 225 people of all abilities enjoying the evening together, the search for a larger venue will be a priority. Commissioner Collins asked if a family-friendly program might be a consideration in the future.

- *Chairman Micari provided an update on the recent bus route and paratransit expansion to the Bristol Adult Education Center. He emphasized the Commission's role in its dedicated advocacy for the needed changes. Margaret Banker, our January speaker, will provide additional details on implementation.
- *Update on smoke detectors: Chairman Micari and EMD Harley Graime will coordinate this project with Fire Chief Richard Hart. Commissioner Bajurny agreed to finalize the list of the seven people who requested the units. Chairman Micari announced that *Advocates for Bristol Seniors* has awarded \$900 towards the cost of installation of these units.

Old Business

- *Discussion on the Commission's support for learning Basic Sign. Jon Sahlin suggested scheduling 10-15 minutes at the end of each meeting for this purpose. All agreed to begin at the January meeting. *Motion needed?*

Correspondence

None

Public Participation

- *A Zoom visitor, Debbie Reed, spoke of her experience with visual disabilities and provided information about the Connecticut branch of the National Federation of the Blind. She was invited, and agreed, to speak at the March 13 meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Krolikowski/Ewings, passed **Meeting adjourned:** 8:00 PM

Next meeting: January 10, 2024 at 7:00 PM, City Hall, 1st floor meeting room

Presenter: Margaret Banker, Director, ADA Paratransit Services,
Greater Hartford Transit District

Submitted by,

Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary