

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



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

**Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2024**

7:00 PM – City Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room 3-1 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, Olsen

Absent: Salmoiraghi

Call to order: 7:01 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: June 12, 2024 (Krolikowski/Ewings, passed)

Presentation: Thomas DeNoto, City of Bristol Assessor
Topic: Tax and Relief Programs for the Disabled

Thomas DeNoto introduced himself as the tax assessor for the City of Bristol. He said that his staff is available to help anyone with tax relief programs and noted that people who qualify for one program may qualify for others. He said that, to assist deaf taxpayers, they have used teletype services or handwritten notes.

Mr. DeNoto described several tax relief programs available to those with disabilities and veteran status including the following:

- The State of Connecticut offers a \$1,000 property tax rebate for those who are totally disabled and receiving Social Security benefits, providing the applicant is under income limits.
- The State of Connecticut also offers a property tax rebate for those at least 65 years of age or totally disabled, providing the applicant is under income limits. The city typically receives 1,000 rent relief applications and 300-400 applications from homeowners. For rent relief, utility payments are also considered. Rebate checks are typically processed by November 30. Rent relief is an annual application while homeowner's relief is a biennial application.
- The City of Bristol offers a Local Senior Homeowner Tax Relief Program available to anyone at least 65 years of age, provided household income is below \$60,000, a \$500 property tax benefit.
- The City of Bristol also offers the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program whereby individuals of at least 60 years of age who accrue volunteer hours could qualify for property tax relief.
- Veterans who served during a war time period and who were honorably discharged may qualify for property tax relief provided the individual is under certain income limits.

In addition to the programs he described, Mr. DeNoto noted that there are other benefits available for blind taxpayers and those who have a modified "ambulance-type" motor vehicle. Additional information is available on the assessor's webpage on the city's website which is kept up to date.

New/Current Business

*For the October 9, 2024, meeting, the Registrars of Voters, Kevin McCauley (D) and Jolene Lusitani (R), will present on accessible voting. Carrie Tedd, the benefits coordinator of the Bristol Senior Center, will present at the November 13, 2024, meeting. (Note: Following the meeting, Jason Krueger was confirmed to present in place of Carrie Tedd.) No speaker has yet been confirmed for the December 11, 2024, meeting.

*The Commission's presence at the Rockwell Park Festival on August 17 and the presence at the farmers' market on August 31 were successful. About a dozen people visited the booth each day and asked questions.

*The Commission will have a presence at the Bristol Senior Center Health Fair on September 26. The Commission will also plan on having a presence at the Mum Festival on September 28.

*Commissioner Bajurny gave an update on the smoke/CO detectors for members of the deaf community. Because of availability conflicts, the installer will not be able to complete all work in a single day, but instead the work will be completed over multiple days.

*Chairman Micari informed the Commission that he shared an article from Disability Scoop titled “Alert Issued After Record Numbers Of Kids With Autism Drown” with Sarah Larson, Deputy Superintendent of Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services. Thanks to the information in the article, parks staff were able to handle a recent incident of a child on the spectrum having a panic attack at a city pool.

*Chairman Micari mentioned that the Bristol-Burlington Health District will be having a health fair on October 5. The Commission decided against participating this year but will consider it in the future if the BBHD will have such events again.

*Regarding a one-page handout about the Commission, made to distribute at events that the Commission is participating in, Commissioner Krolikowski asked for it to be reformatted to eliminate duplicative information and to add accurate contact information. The Commission will review and update the document.

*Chairman Micari stated that he and Commissioner Bajurny were recently able to work with CoSign to assist a deaf couple who were signing a lease with the Bristol Housing Authority. He praised CoSign’s ability to provide help in less than 48 hours.

Old Business

*Chairman Bajurny led the Commission in demonstrating how to sign various words related to Halloween, such as “vampire” and “witch,” in ASL.

Correspondence

*Chairman Micari stated that he sent a message to Sen. Henri Martin thanking him for the presentation he gave at the June 13, 2024, meeting.

*Chairman Micari stated that he sent a message to Mr. Mark Voight thanking him for the presentation he gave at the June 13, 2024, meeting.

Public Participation

None.

Motion to adjourn: Krolikowski/Ewings, passed **Meeting adjourned:** 8:35 PM

Next meeting: October 9, 2024, at 7:00 PM

City Hall, 3rd floor meeting room 3-1

Presenter: Kevin McCauley, Democratic Registrar of Voters

Jolene Lusitani, Republican Registrar of Voters

Topic: Accessible voting

Submitted by,

Andrew Collins, Secretary