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 Agenda
November 13, 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:
Absent:
Call to order
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Minutes: October 9, 2024

Presentation: Jason Krueger, Executive Director of the Department of Aging, Bristol Senior Center
Topic: Services Offered by the Bristol Senior Center

New/Current Business
*Tentative speakers for December and beyond
*Update on installation of smoke/CO detectors

Old Business

*Lesson on American Sign Language

Correspondence

*From Chairman Micari to the Registars of Voters, Kevin McCauley (D) and Jolene Lusitani (R):

Kevin and Joline:

On behalf of the Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities, I thank you for your presentation at our October Commission meeting. This "traditional annual pre-election presentation", was once again a timely overview of this year's ballot, including candidates and referendum question, as well as discussion and demonstration of the Adaptive Voting Device and voting process. The discussion of the early voting process and calendar also provided important information and details of this recently enacted voting alternative.

Finally, thank you for your continued and longstanding support of our Commission and Mission.

Sincerely,
Daniel "Dan" Micari, Chair
Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Public Participation

Motion to adjourn: **Meeting adjourned:**

Next meeting: December 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM
City Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room 3-1

Presentation: Damien Saunders, Connecticut Outreach & Equipment Coordinator of the Connecticut Equipment Distribution Program
Topic: Equipment for the Hard of Hearing, Deaf, and Blind

Submitted by,
Andrew Collins, Secretary

Join Zoom Meeting

https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/88512009314?pwd=cDdReHV2VWt3eVE2SnYySFhMeWtvdz09 Passcode: 12345

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Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Bristol, CT 06010

Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2024

7:00 PM – City Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room 3-1 and Virtual Format

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Present: Micari, Collins, Ewings, Graime, Krolikowski, Olsen, Salmoiraghi
Absent: Bajurny
Call to order: 7:10 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Minutes: September 11, 2024 (Ewings/Krolikowski, passed)

Presentation: Kevin McCauley, Democratic Registrar of Voters
Jolene Lusitani, Republican Registrar of Voters
Topic: Accessible voting

Kevin McCauly and Jolene Lusitani, the Registrars of Voters, demonstrated various aspects of how accessible voting works, especially for voters who are deaf or blind. They demonstrated an accessible voting machine which can be used by people unable to complete a paper ballot due to blindness or mobility issues.

In addition to this demonstration, they presented on various other aspects of the election process including how absentee ballots and early voting works.

Currently, there is a broad range of excuses that a voter can use to request an absentee ballot including illness, recovery from surgery, military deployment, among others. A question on a constitutional amendment will be voted on this year that would allow a change in the law to permit no-excuse absentee voting. In addition, 2024 will be the first year in which a voter can apply for an absentee ballot online.

Early voting for the general election will be from October 21 to November 3 at City Hall. They noted that all ballots collected early, including absentee ballots, are securely stored in a safe and are not counted until Election Day.

The registrars emphasized that elections in Connecticut are secure, including the use of a paper ballot and regular audits of elections by the Secretary of the State.

The state is aware that there are still barriers to voting for those with certain disabilities such as those that would prefer instruction in ASL who may not understand English and difficulties for deaf-blind voters.

New/Current Business

*The November 13, 2024, meeting will feature a presentation by Jason Krueger, Executive Director of the Department of Aging, Bristol Senior Center. The December 11, 2024, meeting will feature a presentation by Damien Saunders, Connecticut Outreach & Equipment Coordinator of the Connecticut Equipment Distribution Program.

*The Commission had successful presences at the Bristol Senior Center Health Fair on September 26 and the Mum Festival on September 28. Several people asked questions and requested more information.

*Due to Commissioner Bajurny's absence, there was no update regarding the smoke/CO detector installation.

*Chairman Micari stated that he attended the Candidates' Forum on Disability Issues on October 9 which featured various political candidates. He stated that Rep. John Larson strongly supported bolstering Social Security for both retirees and the disabled. Rep. Rosa DeLauro highlighted the introduction of the 988 emergency line for mental health crises and also spoke in favor of maintaining the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Republicans at the forum generally favored repealing the ACA. All candidates supported legislation to abolish the sub-minimum wage for disabled workers.

*Chairman Micari reminded the Commission that October is National Disability

Employment Awareness Month.

*Jon Sahlin, ASL interpreter, announced that the second annual ASLpalooza will take place on November 23 starting at 7:00 pm at the Truck Bar in Berlin, CT. The event will feature performances by deaf artists. Tickets will be $20 if purchased ahead or $25 at the door. This follows last year's ASLpalooza event in Bristol which was very successful.

*Commissioner Ewings announced that the Bristol Public Library will be holding an event to teach basic ASL on October 17.

Old Business

*Audience members reminded the Commission of how to sign various words related to Halloween in ASL.

Correspondence

*Chairman Micari stated that he sent a message to Thomas DeNoto, City of Bristol Assessor, thanking him for the presentation he gave at the September 11, 2024, meeting.

Public Participation

None.

Motion to adjourn: Krolikowski/Ewings, passed **Meeting adjourned:** 8:32 PM

Next meeting: November 13, 2024, at 7:00 PM
City Hall, 3rd floor meeting room 3-1

Presenter: Jason Krueger, Executive Director of the Department of Aging, Bristol Senior Center
Topic: Services Offered by the Bristol Senior Center

Submitted by,
Andrew Collins, Secretary