

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
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: Micari, Bajurny, Collins, Ewings, Graime, Olsen, Salmoiraghi

Absent: Krolikowski

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

Approval of Minutes: October 9, 2024 (Ewings/Collins, passed)

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

Jason Krueger began the presentation by introducing himself and the Bristol Senior Center. The Senior Center is located at 240 Stafford Avenue and has about 5,500 members. Membership is open to those at least 55 years of age or 50 if the individual has a disability.

The Senior Center offers a wide variety of programs and activities for its members. Mr. Krueger said that they offer various kinds of help with

transportation. Such services include Dial-A-Ride, which offers transportation only to locations in Bristol. The public bus system is available as well. Encompass offers transportation to members along with caregivers for a fee. ADA Paratransit offers transportation for medical services, such as doctor and hospital visits. American Medical Response can also assist people with medical appointments with financial constraints. Finally, Valley Cab is an option.

The Senior Center offers a variety of clinical programs. These include hearing tests, blood pressure screenings, a foot clinic for \$18 per session, and a dental clinic that offers cleanings for \$50.

The Senior Center offers nutritional programs. These include lunch every day. Meals on Wheels is also operated by the Senior Center.

The Senior Center offers several social activities. Such activities include physical classes in the gymnasium and in classrooms. There are yoga, tai chi, and Zumba classes, among others. The Senior Center offers other recreational activities including a cornhole league, shuffleboard, bocce, and pickleball. Arts and crafts, such as painting, ceramics, and quilting, are available as well. The Senior Center is also home to a woodshop, a coffee shop, a library, and a computer room.

Social groups are available which include a writers' group and a photo club.

Mr. Krueger stated that Carrie Tedd is a social worker who works with the Senior Center to offer a variety of help with various programs including fuel and energy assistance programs, Social Security, and Medicare.

Trips are also organized by the Senior Center. Many types of trips are organized such as day trips, overnight trips, and an international trip once a year. Mr. Krueger stated that typically Bristol residents have a priority on these trips.

During the presentation, members of the Commission and audience offered much praise for the high quality and variety of services that the Senior Center offers.

New/Current Business

* The December 11, 2024, meeting will feature a presentation by Damien Saunders, Connecticut Outreach & Equipment Coordinator of the Connecticut Equipment Distribution Program. Speakers for the January meeting and beyond have yet to be determined.

*Commissioner Bajurny updated the Commission on the installation of smoke/CO detectors. She has been gathering information from those interested and will be sure of all the details. For residents of a condominium, it will need to be determined if and how a detector can be installed since they are required to be hardwired.

*Chairman Micari announced that a new disability resource guide was created which was prepared by Commissioner Graime and Commissioner Krolikowski. This will be featured on the Commission's webpage on the city's website.

*Chairman Micari discussed a recent meeting that he had with the National Federation of the Blind. The discussion focused on the accessible voting machines used during the November 5 election. Deb Reed, President of the Central Connecticut Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, who was present in the audience, found the accessible voting machine easy to use but found that her ballot was not handled properly in a way that could compromise voter privacy. Chairman Micari suggested that poll workers may need more specific training.

*Joh Sahlin, ASL interpreter, gave an update regarding the upcoming ASL-palooza event on November 23. Preparations have been going well. Several sponsors have been secured for the event including deaf organizations. The event will take place at The Truck Bar in Berlin, CT. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Tickets cost \$25 at the door or \$20 if purchased ahead of time. In addition to Mr. Sahlin's band, Blast Time, the event will feature two deaf performers.

Old Business

*Commissioner Bajurny led the Commission in teaching ASL signs related to music, though she noted that there are few such signs related to music.

Correspondence

*Chairman Micari sent a message to Kevin McCauly and Jolene Lusitani, City of Bristol Registrars of Voters, thanking them for the presentation that they gave at the October 9, 2024, meeting.

Public Participation

*An audience member asked about the status of the elimination of the subminimum wage. Chairman Micari stated that this will likely be considered by Congress next year.

*An audience member described difficulties of living with disabilities while also caring for an ill mother and trying to avoid hospital stays. She stated that her mother lost the power of attorney and that she has had difficulties with the probate court. She stated that she needs additional guidance about what to

do. Commissioners offered several suggestions including seeking assistance from the Bristol Senior Center or seeking help from an attorney.

Motion to adjourn: Salmoiraghi/Ewings, passed **Meeting adjourned:** 8:24 PM

Next meeting: December 11, 2024, at 7:00 PM
City Hall, 3rd floor meeting room 3-1

Presenter: 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