

Billerica Commission on Disability

**Town Hall
365 Boston Road
Room #116
Billerica, Massachusetts 01821
(978)215-2000**

**Acting Town Manager
Clancy Main**

**Chairman
Arthur Torrey**

DRAFT JANUARY Meeting MINUTES

**(Originally Thursday January 16, 2025)
Rescheduled to Thursday January 23, 2025**

6:00 PM

VIA Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87188773476?pwd=bkRlaFFXWTdreTI1d3JueVlySFNvZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 8877 3476

Passcode: 433264

Phone 1-929-205-6099

AGENDA

Agenda items in bold, notes in regular text

INFORMAL SESSION Due to lack of quorum

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Dina – excused

Maria

Jason

Lauren – Excused

ART – (missed part of meeting due to technical problems)

Darlene - absent

Guests

Mark LaLumiere.

Andrew Jennings

- 1. Announcements:**
- 2. Open mike.**
- 3. I received a request from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance to help them organize a focus group of Billerica Residents to discuss the “current state of disability services in the**

RECEIVED
JAN 23 2025
10:58 AM

Greater Lowell area.” I have responded, and invited them to attend, discussion? (see Supplement @ end) (have email saying they can’t make this meeting, but want to attend the Feb 20 meeting)

4. **Should / can we get our own Zoom account to avoid ongoing problems w/ recording meetings?** (have message from Robert Maynard to work on details)
possibly resolved -
5. **Scholarship donation?**
Per Lauren, previously we had two questions, 1. About impact of disability on education or personally, 2. About community involvement inside or outside of school
update from Jason, to hold, Colleges – UMASS, Community College – may be free, wait for some meetings
6. **Need input for upcoming contracts and 5 year plan. - Continuing item,**
 - a. **Debugging COA bus services for disability as well as elderly – update?**
 - b. **Andrew J will keep us updated on when we need to provide input. Email Andrew w/ any specific items for public record,**
 - c. **Dina has put in request for needs assessment to Town Mgr. via SB**
 - d. **Andrew will make inquiry about Sr Ctr bus access**
7. **Kohlrausch park – Some things done, further project RFP outfor bid**
Continuing Item – any update?
8. **Parking @ Senior Center & library – striping? (Mark L.) (Per MCOD, Striping required, ground HP logo optional) Hway Super to inform timing – update?**
On list for yearly striping
9. **Gazebo status? - anything needed from us? (Mark L.) update?**
10. **Question for Marc L. from Mark T. about Kennedy Meadows Assisted living – parking compliance (number of spaces needed / present) (Mark L. and Mark T working on resolution)**
Continuing item – update?
11. **O’Conner’s Plaza and Town Center businesses – parking, including out front (Mark L.)**
 - a. **Safety imp. plan for added spaces – implementation status?**
 - b. **Any update about back lot (2 HP spots required, Jason looking at GIS map to make suggestions on placement) Update?**
Need vote of BCOD for adding spaces in front.
12. **Boston Rd. construction passability for pedestrians? Update?**
 - a. **Per Mark Sidewalks done, lighting & bricks in progress, transitions not compliant yet.**
Progress continues
 - b. **Southbound side just about done, starting on Northbound, probably could do trip up and down, crossings not – Spring of 26 completion..**
13. **Question about the new pedestrian light buttons on the lights at the intersection of Boston Rd. and Treble Cove. - Mark L. eval?**
Technically it is compliant – close item

14. Other issues surrounding that intersection:

- a. Missing sidewalk between Precision Tune and the Harley shop?
- b. St. Anne's – sidewalk around that corner?
- c. Pedestrian safety concerns about TCR / Boston rd intersection, espec. W/ new fire dept.

New fire station @ macs – likely to be improved as part of that project

15. There was a recent survey on MA Commissions run by the Danvers Accessibility Commission, results have been released (sent out separately) any thoughts? Lauren – reaching out to more other disability comms to talk about what they did and how it worked. Continuing item (poss. Feb?)

16. Possible table @ Yankee Doodle, sensory space @ library – Lauren & Maria will work on. Status?

- a. From emails, seems possible, but does conflict w/ book sale. 2nd floor quieter. (any conference room we could use?)
- b. Darlene says we can do table for free? (Mary Howard is contact)
- c. Possible new brochure (Maria working on)
- d. PLANNING FOR 2025?
- e. Suggested, get table possibly quiet space either library 3rd floor or old library? Possible room in town hall, old COD office – Mark L.

17. Maria will talk about possible “Disability Meet & Greet”(Tabled until 2025) possible do something from facebook page?

18. Social media presence? Status?

- a. Maria or Jason working on.
- b. (OK per message from Robert Maynard)
- c. We have page, need material, link to BATV show?
FACEBOOK Page has been set up – close item
- d. Farmers market? Maria will look into?

19. Account finances.

20. Approval November minutes.

21. Approval informal December minutes.

22. Darlene reported need for a railing on inside stairs at Library. S/b installed soon – update?. In process

23. 2025 Billerica Family Health and Safety Fair Vendor and Sponsor Application,

- a. Do we want a table? - yes, applied for.
- b. What do we have / want to put on it?

Maria still working on brochure - Reach out to MCOD for any stuff?

24. Andrew sent out a message about a public meeting on "Vulnerable Road Users Systemic Safety near Bus Stops Project" Discussion?

- a. Treble Cove and 3A was concern in Oct. meeting? Other places?

25. Old Business.

a. **Website Update**

- i. **Phone # - Now Town Mgr office. (What happens if Town gets call for us?)**
- ii. **Email – spam or previous subscriptions? (update from Maria?)**
under control
- iii. **Update membership list (w/ Donna's resignation)**

26. New Business.

27. Adjournment.

Supplement – Item 3, Initial contact from GLHA, (edited to remove email / form artifacts) and my response.

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Arthur,

The folks working on the 2025 Greater Lowell Community Health Needs Assessment are looking for some assistance from the Disability Commission, please take a look at their email below. I have cc'ed someone from the group on this email.

Thank you!

Robert Maynard

From:noreply@civicplus.com

Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 1:46 PM

To: Robert Maynard <rmaynard@town.billerica.ma.us>

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Questions? / Report a Concern

Contact Information

Name Greater Lowell Health Alliance

Email Address eharris@greaterlowellhealthalliance.org

Nature of Request We are thrilled to be able to begin the conduction of our focus groups for the 2025 Greater Lowell Community Health Needs Assessment. As you may know, this Needs Assessment is conducted every 3 years to assess the greatest health needs in our community. This assessment allows community members to tell us what they want to see from community & health providers, and is a major data source and strategy guide for dozens of health agencies, community organizations, non-profits, and advocates across the Greater Lowell region.

We are excited to ask the Billerica Commission on Disabilities to help us organize a focus group to gain valuable insight into the current state of disability services in the Greater Lowell area.

For background: focus groups are generally between 6 and 10 people. GLHA will provide a facilitator and notetaker. GLHA can also provide a translator/interpreter if necessary, but if you prefer to use your own, that is fine as well. GLHA will also provide \$25 gift card incentives for participants.

Your role will be in helping recruit participants and, if possible, finding/booking a suitable location, date and time that will work best for you. Focus groups generally last 60 to 90 minutes. All participation is confidential. Once we schedule a time slot for your focus group, I will send you materials to assist you in recruiting participants.

If you are interested, please let me know if scheduling a focus group after the new year or within the week of December 15th. We are hosting focus groups through March 2025, so if these times do not work, please let us know any days/times that would work for you!

January 14th
January 15th
January 16th
January 27th
January 29th

Let me know if you have any questions!
Any other information Field not completed.

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Hi, Sorry to not have responded sooner.

As best I can tell from the form, here is the info they are requesting. I will say that this in some way will be difficult to do as the COD does not have a way that I'm aware of to find or list who the residents in town are that have disabilities - HIPAA and similar privacy rules make it a problem. If the Health Alliance has ideas on dealing with this, I'd be glad to hear them...

Arthur Torrey
arthur_torrey@comcast.net
978-663-0241 (home, preferred, talk to machine if you get it)
978-944-4924 (cell)
10 Kohlrausch Ave.
North Billerica, MA 01862

Obviously members of the Commission w/ Disabilities may be able to help, and I might also be able to get my GF to participate (she is multiply disabled, I'm just a paraplegic)

Our COD meetings are on the 3rd Thursday evenings, which would take out the 16th. I will put this on our agenda for the meeting we are having on the 16th. If one of your members would like to attend let me know and I can send you the Zoom link.

Personally I have commitments on Monday nights, other nights I'm more flexible, depending. Of the listed nights, 1/14 works easily, 1/15, and 1/29 could be done.

Also would this group be an in-person gathering or virtual?

ART - Chair BCOD