

GOALS

- Work to increase participation of people with disabilities in Town events and on Boards, Commissions, and other areas of Town Government.
- Promote use of technology for people with disabilities at Town events and in venues throughout Brookline.
- Work with the Town to ensure that all Town Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is usable by people with disabilities.
- Make information available about local resources for people with disabilities, their families, and their caregivers.
- Promote and support the safety and emergency preparedness efforts of the Town's first responders.
- Collaborate with and assist the ADA Coordinator and other Town entities to ensure compliance with Federal and State disability laws, including support for regular and ongoing review of Town programs, services, activities and facilities.
- Review Architectural Access Board building regulation variance requests in Brookline and communicate with the Board to provide results in timely manner.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Brookline Commission on Disability is to enhance the quality of life for all persons with any form of disability. We strive to learn about and rectify obstacles on Brookline's streets and sidewalks, barriers in public and private buildings, or a lack of full compliance in programs, services, and activities which may impede full access and equal opportunity for all citizens. The Commission seeks to foster a Town culture in which the needs of all persons with disabilities are understood and addressed.



BROOKLINE COMMISSION ON DISABILITY



For more information on the Brookline Commission on Disability:
www.brooklinema.gov/512/Brookline-Commission-on-Disability

2018-2019

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact the Commission through Brookline's Americans' with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator, Sarah E. Kaplan

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Commission Members

Saralynn Allaire, Chairperson
James Miczek, Deputy Chairperson
Myra Berloff
Benjamin Franco, Select Board Member
Robert Heist
Ann Kamensky
Joan Mahon
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Henry Winkelman

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SELECTED ACTIVITIES

Accessible sidewalks

Through a grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability, Harvard and Beacon Streets curb cuts/curb ramps and sidewalk conditions have been surveyed. Poor conditions are being prioritized for repair; repairs will be requested as needed.

Accessible (Handicapped) Parking

With the help of Boston University students, the Commission surveyed Accessible Parking spaces in Brookline's commercial areas to ensure that vehicle passenger sides are not blocked by trees, etc. and that they meet current regulations. The Commission is working with the Department of Public Works to make changes as needed.

9-1-1 Disability Indicator Form Revision

At the request of the Brookline Police Department, the Commission is collaborating with the Department to revise the Disability Indicator Form and to promote its use.

Review of Requests for Variances from AAB Codes (521 CMR)

The Commission reviews all requests for variances in Brookline and provides a local perspective on the requests to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board.

RESOURCES

Ramp Loan Program

Two sets of portable ramps are available to Brookline residents on a short term loan basis. The ramps enable persons with mobility limitations to gain temporary access to homes and buildings with outside steps

Assisted Listening Devices

The Town of Brookline has two FM Assistive Listening Device Transmitters and four receivers that are available for public use for any Town of Brookline public meeting or event. The Assistive Listening Device Kit is located at the Public Safety Building at 350 Washington St. Users may pick up devices themselves or alert the Town employee or chairperson of the meeting or public that they require a device for accessibility.

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The Brookline Commission on Disability promotes the inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities in the activities, services, and employment opportunities of our Town.

The Commission works in collaboration with the Office on Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations, the Select Board, other Town Departments and the Massachusetts Office on Disability.