

MCOD Minutes
March 12,2026

1. Call to Order: 7:03pm
2. Motion to Approve the Agenda: 1st __Ms Gachocu____ 2nd____Ms Santone____
3. Attendance: Present- Mr. Gosselin, Ms Santos, Mr. Hatch, Ms. Lee, Ms. Gonzalez, Mr. McCormack, Ms. Santone, Ms. Gachocu
Absent-Ms Almonte
4. Public Participation (Maximum 5 Minutes): Syd Harris of 2 Apple Blossom Way, Methuen came to speak to the commission. He spoke about having been one of the 3 starting members of the commission and stated he has a history of past conflict with the commission and other city boards. He stated that attendance of members should be taken via roll call. He also had concerns over a variety of issues. He claimed the city council is looking at the disability commission as well as stating that 'the mayor is not the 'boss but city council is.' Syd stated that a see click fix request must be sent to the city building inspector and not the ADA coordinator. He went on to say he came with 3 main issues (notwithstanding the comments above. Syd Harris claimed that 2 meetings ago, the vote for new commission officers was not on the agenda and therefore he claims it was illegal. He continued to point out that he has been critiquing Ms. Lee for the past 12 years. Next, Syd shared a concern over the Nevins Library parking lot. He states that they resurfaced the handicap spots and now there is a 'bump' and that elevation can not be more than 2%. Syd stated that the sidewalk near City Hall has no safe way to get off the sidewalk and access the the building. Syd made the proclamation that DPW no longer attends the commission on disability meetings since they don't need to be here and the commission should just be notifying the city inspector of issues. Additionally, Syd stated that there is a city ordinance in Methuen that all new public facilities need to be built with a handicap button at the entrance. Syd states that Chik Fil Ah does not have this feature. He explained that the accessible entrance is off to the side (with signs to redirect people) is discrimination. Syd also proclaimed issues with restrooms at the cemetery not being added. He shared his opinion that money that the commission has access to needs to be saved and shared his feelings and experience with people on city boards having a conflict of interest.
5. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting: Ms Lee 2nd Ms Santos
6. Treasurer's Report: 150,382.05 available

Motion to approve-Mr McCormack, 2nd Ms Gonzalez

7. ADA Coordinator's Report: Ms Almonte is absent again and no reports were shared with the commission

8. See, Click, Fix Reports: n/a

9.Updates from the Methuen D.P.W: n/a

10. Old Business: The Emergency Preparedness Event at the Senior Center has been tabled until the fall.

In regards to the Commission on Disability website & facebook,, Mr Hatch and Ms Santos will reach out to city hall to have it updated and request a facebook account for the commission

Ms Gonzalez sent a pdf of the flyer she made for MCOD to all members and we discussed asking the city to print out flyers so that we can begin to disperse them as quickly as possible. There was a delay as the city recently changed all emails which caused a disruption in the ability to send and receive emails accurately,

Disability Pride Event- Ms Gonzalez shared that she along with Ms Lee and Mr Gosselin toured the Methuen YMCA branch and had a meeting with their director Ms Redard. We have booked the event for Sat July 25, 2026 11am-3pm. We assigned 'homework' as each commissioner will bring a list of about 5 vendors to the next meeting so we can start to make concrete plans. Ms Gonzalez also offered to make a flyer for the event.

Ms Lee has followed up with the police about the illegal handicap parking app and we are waiting to hear back from them as to whether that can be set up again.

St Patrick's Parade- Ms Santos shared updates. She stated there will be multiple places for people to sit in order to be able to enjoy the parade. There are multiple locations along the route that are set up with chairs (reserved signs will be placed on them to clarify that they are for people with disabilities)

Ms Santone also offered to help set up sensory friendly spaces for community events.

11. New Business:

12. Any business for the good and welfare of the community:

13. Motion to Adjourn: 1st ____ Ms Lee _____ 2nd ____ Ms
Santone _____

14. Meeting Adjourned: 8:19