



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
***HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT***

**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE**  
**MAYOR**

**COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**9 March 2021**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Present:** Nancy Salamoun, Staff Liaison, Mgr. of Equity Diversity and Inclusion  
Bonnie Denis, Chair  
Colin Killick, Commissioner  
Lian Guertin, Commissioner  
Katie Milton, Commissioner  
Brian Postlewaite, Secretary, Director of Engineering

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Adam Polinski, OSPCD Mobility Division  
Viola Augustin, OSPCD Mobility Division  
Jess Almeida Henry Hardy  
Alan Bingham Jennifer Ciuitella Hilario  
Helen Corrigan Julia Kedge  
Andrew Hall

Note: Due to COVID-19 Shutdown, all attendees were remote via Zoom Meeting.

## **General Business**

- Meeting commenced on 9 March at 6:30pm.

## **Guest Presentation**

- Adam Polinski & Viola Augustin introduced the Pearl Street annual street reconstruction project.
- This project will include the following:
  - Reconstructing sidewalks and all curb ramps to be ADA compliant,
  - Curb use will be reconsidered and reprioritized with 3 options between McGrath and Cross, difference being parking versus cycling facilities,
  - Traffic calming facilities installed on the remainder of Pearl, east of Cross St.
- A separate state project will resurface McGrath Hwy, which will include reconstructed Accessible Curb Ramps and Protected Bike Lanes.
- The Commission provided the following comments:
  - Provide accessible parking, on side streets if necessary, and especially where general parking is removed,
  - Provide sufficient drainage at Accessible Curb Ramps, and
  - Avoid flashing lights.

## **Chair's Report**

- Bonnie presented at the Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets (SASS) Summit.
- SASS submitted formal recommendations to the Mayor and City Council:
  - <http://tinyurl.com/SASSdeclaration>
- Bonnie attended the Licensing Commission (LC) regarding the Posto HP space violation. The LC agreed with the SCPD concerns, and was sympathetic. The LC will continue to review and enforce if the violation persists.

## **Director's Report**

- Temporary ramp variance for outdoor seating complete.
- Celeste restaurant variance for second floor seating submitted.
- Colin's renomination to the Commission was sent to the Mayor's office.

## **Old Business**

- None.

## **New Business**

- Colin: MA state is developing a homebound vaccination program executed by local health departments.
- City Council (Clr Ballantyne) is authoring a Flatware/Cutlery ordinance, similar to the previous Straw-Ban ordinance. The ordinance bans handing them out, but allows for them to be available by request.
  - Colin: recommends that the ordinance should have exceptions for prepackaged foods and in healthcare settings; which are exceptions similar to those in the Straw-Ban ordinance.
  - VOTE: Bonnie motioned Colin to negotiate the above concerns with Clr Ballantyne to revise the ordinance. Bonnie to review conclusion for consistency with Commission's recommendations. Passed unanimously.
- Accessible parking space request requires documentation from health provider certifying disability in addition to a state-issued disability placard. Only record of the placard should be required.
  - VOTE: Brian motioned to petition the Traffic & Parking Commission to revise the documentation requirements to only require the disability placard. Bonnie & Brian will first consult with Director of Parking. Passed unanimously.

**Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 8:05pm; approved unanimously.**