

Natick Commission on Disability

The Natick Commission on Disability was established in 1989 through Town Meeting and is appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Commission consists of up to nine members, the majority of which must be persons with a disability. One appointee shall be a member of the immediate family of a person with a disability and one member must be an elected or appointed municipal official. The Commission operates according to authority as stated in the general laws of Massachusetts and the Commission's By-laws as approved by the Board of Selectmen.

What Is A Disability?

Federal law defines a disability as "any physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual..." The Massachusetts Office on Disability estimates that 17% of the population is affected by some type of disability which limits an individual's mobility, vision, hearing, learning ability, or mental capacity. The definition also includes persons with a variety of other severely limiting physical conditions.

What Is The Role Of The Commission On Disability?

- A)** To promote disability awareness
- B)** To promote the equal status of persons with disabilities in education, employment, economic, political, health, legal and social spheres.
- C)** To monitor legislation that advances the equal status of persons with disabilities on the municipal, state and federal levels, including, but not limited to, implementation of Section 504, the Architectural

Access Board Regulations and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

D) To review and make recommendations about policies, procedures, services and activities of departments and agencies of the Town of Natick as they affect people with disabilities.

What Is The NCOD Accomplishing?

- Sponsor training sessions, along with Architectural Access Board and Massachusetts Office on Disability, to develop more Community Access Monitors familiar with the federal and state architectural access codes.
- Participate in the review of plans for public and private sector construction projects.
- Sponsor training and awareness sessions for Town and School personnel, businesses, school children and the general public.
- Sponsor regional Commission on Disability meetings to further educate its various members.
- Review and update the Transition plan as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Provide TDD machines for the hearing impaired in five Town offices.
- Provide for many curb cuts and the audible tactile signals in the downtown area.
- Provide technical assistance, information and referral to Town, Schools, Churches, Businesses, residents and others in the community.

- Address handicapped parking and pedestrian safety issues.
- Provide resource materials to the public and assisting the Library in expanding their resources on disability issues.

**How Can You Become Involved With
The Commission?**

- 1) Attend the Commission meetings.
- 2) The Commission has several sub-committees and would greatly appreciate your assistance on any of these.
- 3) Train to become a Community Access Monitor and help make Natick a more accessible community for persons with disabilities.
- 4) Join the Advisory Committee to the Commission, which assists the Commission in its purpose and role.
- 5) Submit a letter to the Board of Selectmen to be considered for appointment to the Commission.

For More Information

Contact: Natick Commission on Disability
 13 East Central St.
 Natick, MA 01760
 508-647-6519 Voice/TTY
 Information line 508-647-6518
 508-647-6401 (FAX)
 E-mail gkermode@natickma.org

Reasonable accommodation and audio-visual aids and services will be available upon request.

NATICK
 COMMISSION
 ON
 DISABILITY
 ESTABLISHED 1989



13 East Central Street
 Natick, MA 01760

Commissioners
 Joan Sherizen, Chair
 Susan Bornstein
 Sandra Crossman
 Cheryl Freier
 Mel Hirsh
 Gwen Kermode
 Ron Ordway
 Russell Thome