

Town of West Hartford
MINUTES
Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities Agenda
Monday, January 8, 2024, 7:00 PM
Elmwood Community Center Auditorium

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.
- 2) Introductions
 - a) Members present: Jennifer Searls, Elisa Neira, Jason Mirksy, Christy Miller, Tara McNeil, Amy Messinger, Erin Conneely, Suzanne Oslander and former member and Co-Chair: Joe Kolczynski.
 - b) Members absent: Kimberly Jacobsen, Brittany Koziara
- 3) Minutes from November 11, 2023 were approved.
- 4) Staff Report - update from Suzanne Oslander, Town ADA Coordinator, Department of Social Services
 - a) Refresher course on the requirements of conducting a public meeting will be held virtually and will be offered twice: Wednesday, January 31st at 6:30 PM and Thursday, February 15th at 6:30 PM. The sessions will last one hour. All chairpersons and newly appointed members are required to attend one. All other board members are encouraged to attend. Please reply to whcorpounsel@westhartfordct.gov with your name, your board or commission and the date of the training you plan to attend.
- 5) CERT Team Report - Christy Miller
 - a) If you are interested in joining CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) the basic training class begins on February 20th. It's an 8-week course. Here is the sign up:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AAEAE2FA6FEC16-47118854-cert>
- 6) Vision Zero Task Force - update from Erin Conneely
 - a) Vision Zero Task Force was meeting the same time as WHACPD, so Erin will update us at the next meeting in March.

7) Old Business - None

8) New Business

- a) Discussion of memorandum dated January 8, 2024 from Gregory Sommers, Town Engineer, regarding Community Connectivity Grant Program
 - b) The Commission agreed to support Town Engineer's request of support of a grant application for the community connectivity grant program application for sidewalk accessibility improvements. The support to include letter signed by WHACPD Co-Chairs.
 - c) Possible speakers and interest of commission members.
 - i) Someone from Special Olympics Connecticut to speak at our March 11th meeting.
 - ii) Other ideas? Miracle League, Families Supporting Families, Unified Sports/Theater, Post-Secondary Teacher, Melissa Cabella
 - iii) Discussion around what the numbers of people with disabilities are in town and whether census data collects that type of information.
- 9) Adjournment at 8:10 - next meeting date: Monday, March 11, 2024, in Elmwood Community Center Auditorium at 7:00 PM.

Anyone requiring auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a meeting, service, program or activity of the Town of West Hartford, should contact Suzanne Oslander, ADA Coordinator, at suzanneo@westhartfordct.gov or (860) 561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.



**WEST
HARTFORD**

**Town of West Hartford – Advisory Commisison for
Persons with Disabilities**

50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107

www.westhartfordct.gov

January 8, 2024

From: Tara McNeil and Christy Miller
To: Gregory M. Sommer, PE. Town Engineer
Department of Community Development - Engineering Division
Subject: Community Connectivity Grant Program Application
Sidewalk Accessibility Improvements

Dear Mr. Sommer,

The availability of ADA compliant sidewalk ramps is essential to providing all residents with access to services and benefits of a community. In addition to legal requirements of compliance with ADA, such features allow the town to benefit from full and equitable participation of all residents in community affairs.

Considering this, the West Hartford Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities supports expenditures of Community Connectivity Grant Program funds to promote accessibility with all streets, intersections, and services in accordance with ADA requirements.

Regards,

Tara McNeil Christy Miller

Tara McNeil and Christy Miller

Co-Chairs, West Hartford Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities



MEMORANDUM

TO: Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities

FROM: Gregory Sommer, Town Engineer

RE: Community Connectivity Grant Program (CCGP)
Request for Letter of Support
Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities

DATE: January 8, 2024

The purpose of this memorandum is to request that the Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities provide a letter to support to include in the Town's application for grant funding. A few years ago, the Town was successful in receiving grant funds through the Community Connectivity Grant Program (CCGP). The CCGP was developed to provide funding for targeted infrastructure improvements. The grant award has helped the Town of West Hartford fund the installation of accessible pedestrian equipment at several prominent intersections in Town. The Town's previous application was endorsed by the Town's Persons with Disabilities Commission in the form of a letter of support.

The Engineering Division is currently working on another grant application through the same program. The proposed project will upgrade, replace, and/or install accessible sidewalk ramps in various locations throughout Town. The goal is to improve accessibility for all users, particularly those with mobility issues. Locations will focus on arterial and collector roadways and areas near high pedestrian generators such as schools or parks. In many locations, accessible sidewalk ramps already exist, but do not have a detectable warning tile. In these 650 instances a surface mounted tile is proposed as a means to reduce cost by not removing and replacing concrete ramps that are otherwise in good condition. In other areas sidewalk ramps are bituminous, non-compliant with current standards, or do not exist. In these 235 locations a full replacement/ install is proposed.

The Town's application would once again be strengthened by a Letter of Support from the Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities. It would be most appreciated if a letter could be provided by March 1, 2024. Enclosed with this memorandum is a proposed letter of support for your consideration and discussion. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.