

Meeting called to order @ 6:35 p.m.

1. Roll Call of Committee Members: Nichole Mossalam, Kerlyne Pacombe, Marilyn Andrews, Frank Cina were present. Maria Luise was not present.

Guest Speaker: Captain Glenn Cronin, Malden Police Department, City Emergency Program Manager

Guest Speaker: Paul Weston: Human Rights and Fair Housing Division, Malden

2. Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2021 Special Meeting: Frank made a motion to accept the Minutes and Kerlyne seconded the Minutes. All were in favor.

3. Guest Speaker: Captain Glenn Cronin, Malden PD to discuss Emergency Preparedness

Captain Cronin is involved with the KMA (KMA Architecture and Accessibility Audi who is conducting the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan) and is working with Katie Denis from KMA. He thanked Mayor Christenson and Maria Luise for their work in making funds available for Emergency Preparedness. Capt. Cronin has taken a through look at the ADA Audit to be able to address the Emergency Management. Malden's **Emergency Management Team** consists of six people:

Ron Cochran: Communications Director, City of Malden

Chris Webb: Director of the Board of Health

Bill Sullivan ; Malden Fire Chief

Dr. Kari-ann Murphy, Beebe School Principal

Bob Knox: DPW Director

Capt. Glenn Cronin Malden PD

The purpose of the Emergency Management Team for "resources and responsibilities in the event of a disaster. There are four "Core Principles" for this Team.

1. Mitigation: How to prevent and reduce
2. Preparation: to plan, train, educate and exercise.
3. Response
4. Recovery: Restoration efforts ex.) financial packages for home owners.

The Emergency Management Team works with the ADA in four areas:

1. Notification
2. Evacuation
3. Transportation
4. Shelter
- 5.

Notification involves how to reach all with differing abilities. There is a combination of notification methods including TTY (Text-Teletype) texts, emails, ASL (American Sign Language) open-captioned messages. Capt. Cronin shared that the notification is key to this process.

Evacuation: The Team is working with a variety of challenges including how to help people using wheelchairs and those who are sight-impaired. This is not a limited list; just two examples from the speaker.

Transportation: This address "Everyday plans that are developed ahead of time for alternative transportation. Ex.) The Ride (MBTA) and scooters, bus

Shelter Malden has two emergency locations. One is at the Salemwood School and the second is at the Senior Center. Capt. Cronin shared that these two shelters have to comply with the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board and not ADA.

- Capt. Cronin also shared the **Malden Police Department's Safe Watch Program:** This is a confidential service for Malden residents where there is a person who has a differing ability and the family has a specific manner that can work best with the resident to approach them in a way that is respectful of the person's differing abilities. This program is for all ages. Residents can apply online.
- Kerlyne made a Motion and Frank seconded this. The motion is "To include the Malden Police Department's Safe Watch Program's link to the Disability Commission's website. All were in favor.
<https://www.cityofmalden.org/562/SafeWatch-Program>
- Nicole asked how accessible the Salemwood School and the Senior Center. Capt. Cronin's response, "They are ready to go at a moment's notice." Each site has kitchen facilities, bathrooms, showers and cots ready to go.
- Are there accommodations for residents in the Malden community who have difficulty due to their differing abilities to be in a large crowd? Capt. Cronin responded that they are ready to make sure these residents are comfortable.
- Malden is part of NEMA Region One
- Capt. Cronin explained that they also have Winter Care Packages. These packages provide food for up to one week, have blankets and brushes. Malden P.D. is involved in the "Isolation Quarantine Food Program" through the State of Massachusetts. Malden also works closely with "Malden Neighbors Helping Neighbors," Cambridge Health Alliance, Hallmark Health, Malden Housing Families, and Malden Board of Health.

- It was suggested that this information is shared with the schools, the newspapers, and flyers in apartment buildings and parks.

4. Any updates or action items that need to be addressed from the previous meeting:

- **Update on posting of vacant positions on the Commission**

Nichole gave an update on this. She shared that there have been 19-19 applicants who are extremely qualified. The interviews were done on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The recommendations from these interviews will go to the Mayor.

- **Discussion on goals for the new year**

Continue with ADA recommendations. Nichole will work with the Malden Chamber of Commerce to discuss what the ADA requires of businesses. Is there funding for incentives for businesses to become more ADA-compliant? Next Commission meeting is suggested to be an Action Plan. What can the Disability Commission do for informational resources? Kerlyne suggested that the Commission look at short-term and long-term training.

- Can we invite the President of the Malden Chamber of Commerce to the next Commission meeting? This discussion can include what are the needs of the business community and how to create a plan to work together. How do we share new information and overall education for businesses?
- Nichole suggested to invite Kevin Duffy, Mayor's Office, Strategy and Business Development Officer, to the next Commission meeting and to work with him on the Welcome Packets for the City of Malden.
- Nichole shared that Malden Councilor at Large, Steve Winslow, has secured a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant). This is to look at sidewalk accessibility. The Commission can help with sidewalk concerns for this list. Frank shared that the intersection of Florence and Main Streets looks good. Kerlyne would like to review the need for audible traffic lights, especially in the high traffic areas. Curb cuts need to be continually addressed.

- **Discussion of any possible trainings/educational materials, including educational campaign about handicap parking spaces.**

- The fine for parking illegally in a handicap parking space is \$300. Nichole has noticed that the abuse of parking in handicap parking spaces has gone up recently, especially on Pleasant Street. Capt. Cronin shared that Ron Hogan; City of Malden Strategic Planning Analyst keeps an eye on this. Capt. Cronin

also shared that anyone can call Parking Enforcement if they see an issue with the use of handicap parking.

- The process for education and allocating of handicap fines to City services that benefit those with differing abilities involves:
 - Step 1: City Council amends the budget for handicap fees.
 - Step 2: The internal process of how to award fees has to be reviewed.
 - Step 3: Public Education
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- Frank made a Motion to make an official request that the City Council amend the ordinance to have funds from handicap fines to services in the City to those with differing abilities. This motion includes the components of Education, Enforcement and Grants for public accessibility. Kerlyne seconded the Motion. All were in favor.

5. New Business:

- Paul Weston: Human Rights and Fair Housing Commission, Malden.
- Responding to a letter from a Constituent who is looking for a place to live with their assistance animal (service dog). One landlord believed they were exempt from renting anyone with service animals. Mr. Weston sent this Constituent to HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) federal and to MCAD (Mass Commission Against Discrimination) and to Attorney General Maura Healy's office. Human Rights Commission takes care of finding housing and enforcement. Mr. Weston is writing to the Real Estate Associations to educate them on the regulations with service dogs. He reminded all that service animals are not considered pets. Education, information and resources are steps involved in this process. Maria and Nicole will work on response to this and will include Massachusetts Office on Disability's link.
- Kerlyne suggested that the Disability Commission add the issue of housing to our Action Plan.
- Nichole asked the Commission: "Do we want to consider a process for complaints received between Disability Commission meetings?" She suggested this could be a future agenda item.
- Marilyn reminded all about the Massachusetts Office on Disability Summit on Wednesday, March 4, 2021 from 9:00-1:00 via Zoom.
- **Public Comment:** Nichole shared she is still developing a process for the Public Comment portion of Disability Commission meetings. There is a need to facilitate so all have a say. Each person will be limited to 1-2 minutes.

- Constituent #1: Shared a concern for situation of person with differing abilities who cannot handle a crowd in the event of an emergency. Is there a Malden Police Department list for this? Capt. Cronin responded that the Safe Watch link in the Malden PD website is the place to register. There is a city owned shelter that can accommodate his and has funding for the homeless. They can be bought to a motel.
- Constituent #2: Thanks to Malden P.D. Suggests that there be City meetings to educate for the ADA and where to bring ADA issues. She also recommended the Disability Law Center for ADA issues such as the one with the service dog mentioned in the earlier discussion.

6. Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11, at 6:30 via Zoom.

7. Adjournment: Marilyn made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting. Frank seconded it. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn R. Andrews, Clerk