

Special Town Meeting Article 2: Adopt MGL c.40 sec. 8J to Create Disability Commission

ARTICLE 2. Ms. Goldsberry moves:
that the Town adopt the provisions of
Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 40, section
8J to create a Disability Commission.



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Adoption of Section 8J of Chapter 40 will allow the Select Board to establish a Commission on Disability consisting of five members that will:

- (1) research local problems of people with disabilities;
- (2) advise and assist municipal officials and employees in ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations that affect people with disabilities;
- (3) coordinate or carry out programs designed to meet the problems of people with disabilities in coordination with programs of the Massachusetts Office on Disability;



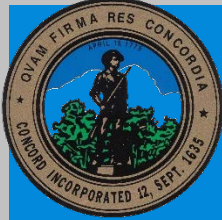
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- (4) review and make recommendations about policies, procedures, services, activities and facilities of departments, boards and agencies of the town as they affect people with disabilities;
- (5) provide information, referrals, guidance and technical assistance to individuals, public agencies, businesses and organizations in all matters pertaining to disability; and
- (6) coordinate activities of other local groups organized for similar purposes.



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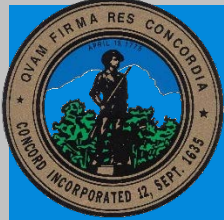
- Concord has a long history of standing up for freedom
- Concord has long fostered ideas of inclusion and self determination
- Fred Faye, one of the founders of the disability movement, was a Concord resident



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A Commission on Disabilities is not a regulatory body; it is an advisory group.

- Assist with review of buildings and site plans
- Provide advice on issues of access
- Offer public education on issues of disability



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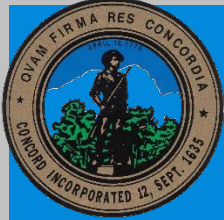
Appointing a Commission is a public commitment on the part of the Town to resolve issues or concerns locally.



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127 Massachusetts cities and towns, including many of our neighbors, have Commissions on Disability.

- Acton
- Framingham
- Arlington
- Leominster
- Ayer
- Lexington
- Billerica
- Lincoln
- Burlington
- Littleton
- Chelmsford
- Sudbury
- Fitchburg
- Westford
- Woburn



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Even as a Committee, our group has had many positive accomplishments.

- Sponsored an educational event on the history of the ADA
- Urged changes which improved access at local venues
 - Bank of America
 - Heywood Meadows
 - Beede Center Pools
 - Gaining Ground
 - Access at polling sites



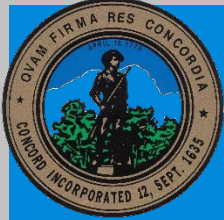
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- Reviewed Plans and offered ideas and suggestions for access
 - West Concord Union Church renovations
 - Concord Integrated Preschool playground
 - 51 Walden
 - Handicap parking plans for Walden Pond visitor center
 - CCHS athletic fields
 - First Parish renovations



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- Held discussions and offered suggestions for various projects
 - WCAC Sidewalks and Intersections study
 - Nashoba Brook Bakery parking
 - Handicap parking in Town center
 - Junction Village
 - Harry Beyer Assessed Trail



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