



Town of Burlington Disability Access Commission (BDAC)

Regular Meeting

April 28, 2025

12:00 pm Grandview Farm 1st floor Tavern , 55 Center Street

RECEIVED

By Town Clerk's Office at 1:15 pm, Jun 16, 2025

The Disability Access Commission (DAC) meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at noon in the Tavern at Grandview Farms, unless otherwise noted on the town calendar and or current agenda.

BDAC Members Present:

- ★ Jack Cunha, DAC Chairman
- ★ Linda Cunha
- ★ Bunny Ferguson
- ★ Dominic Marcellino
- ★ Mike Espejo, Select Board Representative

BDAC Members Not Present:

- ★ Kenny Tigges
- ★ Bob Cunha, School Department Representative

BDAC Support Staff:

- ★ Christopher Hanafin, ADA Coordinator
- ★ Jennifer Goldsmith, Recorder

Guest:

- ★ Sergeant Peter Abaskaroun

Meeting called to order at 12:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

★ **Minutes:**

March 2025 minutes are up for approval.

Motion moved by Jack Cunha and seconded by Mike Espejo to approve the March 2025 minutes. The Commission approves the motion unanimously.

★ **Operation Access Status update:**

Sergeant Peter Abaskharoun, Supervisor of the traffic division and in charge of the \$5,000 Operation Access Initiative provided an update to the commission.

The grant has been used to plus up handicap parking enforcement within town to ensure that only those with valid handicap plates or placards utilize the handicap parking spots and deter those that choose to occupy them illegally. In the approximately three and a half to four weeks there have been over 91 handicap violations issued. Expired placards along with individuals using deceased members' placards have been prominent.

The commission talked about how this operation has opened the towns eyes to how rampant illegal use is of handicap parking spots within town. Burlington is cracking down on handicap parking violators and will not tolerate the illegal use of handicap parking spots. This grant has allowed officers to focus more in depth on canvassing all areas of town while on their shift.



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The goal of this program is to see the number of violations written decrease as people get the hint. When the balance evens out, then we can re-evaluate the need for continuing the grant. Until then, there is an obvious need to keep pushing forward. The commission commended Sergeant Abaskaroun & all involved in OPA for their diligence in bringing to light these violations and ensuring those that need the handicap spaces are able to probably access them.

Motion made by Mike Espejo and seconded by Jack Cunha to approve an additional \$10,000 to go towards continuing this initiative. The motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

★ ADA Accessibility Survey:

The commission discussed a grant submission to pay for an ADA Accessibility Survey for the town which will identify architectural barriers to access. The town last had one done in 2018.

★ 59 Center Street-

There is a dispute over handicap parking accessibility at 59 center street. Originally, there were six handicap accessible condos with six associated handicap parking spots. These spots reverted to whoever took over the lease, regardless of handicap placard status. One of the residents has a handicap parking placard, but her assigned spot is not handicap accessible. The resident has been parking in the guest handicap parking spot and management has threatened to have her car towed. Management at some point moved all handicap parking spots across the parking lot without approval from the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board. There are also now only three handicap parking spots, down from six which the number of handicap parking spots can not be reduced without approval from the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board. The Handicap accessible apartments have since been sold to those that may not have the need for the handicap parking which there is no control over however, tying up handicap parking spots is the issue. Mr. Hanafin will update the commission as he hears more on what will happen next.

★ Birchcrest senior housing:

Handicap Parking issues between residents and main office. Everyone that has a vehicle living in these apartments has assigned spots. Individuals have been parking in the guest handicap parking spots, and not moving their vehicle for days/weeks at a time. The residents allegedly were informed their car would be towed, if not moved. Parking in these spots is not illegal since anyone with a valid handicap parking placard can park in a designated parking spot. Mr. Hanafin passed this information along to the housing authority committee to reach out to the residents to hear their concerns.

★ Last minute new/old business:

Sensory trailer updated. The recreation department initially put it up as a budgetary item, but was asked to look for funding elsewhere first. State Rep, Ken Gordon may be looking into other ways to help the recreation department with funding. They will keep the commission posted. Commission members want to make sure that our commission, if giving a donation to support this, receives the proper accolades, not only publicly but also in large print on the sensory trailer.



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The motion was approved unanimously.

★ **Handicap Parking Fine Fund:**

As of 04/23/2025 After approved allotted funds the handicap parking fine is \$60,027.12.

★ **Adjourn:**

Jack Cunha made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Linda Cunha. The Commission approves the motion unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:53 pm

Submitted by,

Jennifer Goldsmith

Jennifer Goldsmith
BDAC recording clerk