

**Illegal Use of Handicapped Parking Space  
Subcommittee Meeting**

of the Barnstable Disability Commission

June 6, 2018

Hyannis Youth & Community Center

141 Bassett Lane, Hyannis, MA 02601

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am

**Members present:** Paul Logan, Sheila Mulcahy, Linda McKinney, Sabrina Kane and Sarah Nicholson.

The members' discussion included the following subjects:

- Whether to change the amount of the fines for Handicapped Parking violations and--if it is deemed that an increase is appropriate--to determine the proper steps needed in order to bring a proposal to the Town Council/Town Manager for approval. Also to be considered are the Police Department and the Consumer Affairs Department and the impact that any increase in the fine would have upon their daily operations, their current policies, and any regulations and related fines already in existence. The subcommittee members agreed that: the current fine should be raised, the existing discard cycle be increased, and that warnings be given only to those who have existing (valid) handicapped plates or placards. The enforcement of increased fines for first and second offense should be able to be enforceable.
- Handicapped parking signs by the Town of Barnstable need to accurate and enforceable, in adherence to relevant laws and be standardized throughout the Town. The amount of the fine to be levied should be clearly printed on the sign—to that end, the Commission might consider offering to help with modifying any existing sign (which is legally accurate) with a drop-down attachment to be placed by the DPW on the existing sign. Any new signs that are installed by the Town would have the fine already printed on them.
- Public relations activities within the community, to seek out and to encourage input by those in the community who may be disabled; to promote an atmosphere of acceptance and compassion by the general population for those who have physical or mental challenges; and to provide education and instruction concerning the rules and regulations of parking and the need for accessibility. Possible use of the town of Barnstable's Facebook page could be explored, also press releases and the contracting of a Public Relations professional to assist this Commission in a public relations endeavor.

Meeting adjourned 11:56am

*from: Sarah Nicholson*