

MCOD Minutes- April 2, 2026

1. Call to Order: 7:06pm
2. Motion to Approve the Agenda: Eileen Lee, Sean McCormack
3. Attendance: Ms. Lee, Mr. Hatch Mr. Gosselin, Ms Gonzalez, Ms Santos, Mr McCormack, all present

Ms Gachohu, Ms Santone, and Ms Almonte are absent

4. Public Participation (Maximum 5 Minutes) - Counselor Ryan DiZoglio, -16 Central St, Methuen; Asked the commission about backing his endeavor to refresh and construct a part of the Methuen Rail Trail. He states that if the Rail Trail cuts through the back of the police station, it can save about 8-9 minutes of travel as well as carving out a path top make it more accessible to those with mobility issues. Ryan states the chief of police is on board with this. He also commented that we could look for grants to help fund this-he mentions one specifically about saving bees and if we add plants and help create an environment for them to flourish then that could help fund some of this. He requested any available commission member to come for a walk through at the police station on Tuesday, April 7 @ 4pm. Ms Lee stated we should reach out to Community Development to find any grants for this. Ms Gonzalez stated that this is important to make the area more accessible but had some concerns about accessible parking for the renovated area as well as stating that there should be prioritization of having at least one playground in the city that is accessible- as right now there are none. More discussion was had stating that we cannot get a grant without first knowing how much this project would cost. Ms Santos stated she would speak or meet with Methuen's ADA coordinator to see what was available.

Sid Harris, 2 Appleblossom Way; Started with acknowledging Ms Gonzalez's contributions and optimism that there are people who are committed to learning and improving the community. He recommended looking at the city's transition plan to get clearer guidance on matters related to accessibility from the ADA coordinator. He also recommended finding one playground to prioritize in response to Ms Gonzalez's statements. He also mentioned that the new ballpark on Burnham Rd is not accessible and it currently is not.

Louis Santiago, 31 Hawke St; as the head of IT and web development for the city, Mr Santiago came to request the commission approve a grant (6,200) so the city website can be ADA compliant. He stated this would allow the website to have different accessibility tools to help improve access. He stated that the next 4 years would go into his budget. The program is called Civic Plus. This was passed unanimously. He also urged anyone to contact him if they see any inaccuracy on the city website via his email- lsantiago@methuen.gov.

5. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting: Sean McCormack, Wanda Santos
6. Treasurer's Report:
Total funds as of this month-153,102.05
Total expenses for the past month-7,500
Revenue-22,488
Approved by-Ms Lee, Ms Gonzalez
7. ADA Coordinator's Report:
None, she was absent
8. See, Click, Fix Reports:
Ms Santos commended Mr Bowers, who quickly moved to assist a veteran who was stuck due to snow blocking a section of the sidewalk by the Loop.

9. Updates from the Methuen D.P.W: None at this time.

10. Old Business: A first draft flyer was passed around for approval in regard to the disability pride event on July 25. All commission members are compiling a list of vendors. St Patrick parade recap, it was a wonderful experience for our community, and we will look for ways to improve accessibility every year.

Ms Santos will create a facebook and add all members as admin to improve our outreach.

11. New Business: We discussed that there would be a flag raising at City Hall for autism awareness month on Monday, April 6 @12pm.

12. Any business for the good and welfare of the community? No