

DISABILITIES COMMISSION

Deborah Dorsey
Jill Harkaway
Rob Loud
Adeline Naiman
Anita Scheipers, Ex Officio
Jim Spindler
Kitty Stein
Kathy Deickler, Chair

The Commission works to assist in bringing about full and equal participation for people with physical, sensory, cognitive, or other disabilities in all aspects of life. Its purpose is to raise the consciousness of the citizens of Lincoln to the physical, educational, residential, employment, and transportation needs of our disabled residents.

In furthering these goals this year, the Commission has been involved in the following activities: a regular column in the *Lincoln Journal* that reports on the work of the Commission; up-to-date postings on the Town's website (www.lincolntown.org); an ongoing survey of Town facilities and programs to determine if they are fully accessible in accordance with ADA standards; participation in the Conservation Commission's Open Space and Recreation Planning process; testing the new accessible AutoMark voting machines; communicating with the MBTA regarding the lack of a fully accessible station platform; providing resources to residents looking for accessible housing options; and reviewing existing programs through Public safety for helping residents make their emergency medical information available as needed for public safety staff.

After years of strong involvement in the Commission, several members had to resign due to time constraints. Losing Kathy Deickler, and Jill Harkaway has placed the Commission at a distinct disadvantage. Fortunately we gained Jim Spindler as a new member in 2007, but we are still lacking adequate membership to achieve our various goals. We urge any resident with a disability, or who has a family member with a disability to consider joining our Commission. We also welcome able-bodied residents with a strong understanding of the needs of our diverse population. Without the influx of energetic new members, the Commission faces the future potential of dissolution.

The Disabilities Commission continues to keep the citizenry informed about the issues it sees as germane to its purpose. Citizens who are concerned about access to public resources or who have questions about available services are encouraged to contact the Commission by mail at the Lincoln Town Offices, or by e-mail at scheipersa@lincolntown.org, and by attending an LDC meeting as posted on the Town's website, in the *Journal*, and on Lincoln's Cable TV (Channel 8).