

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2013, 3:00 PM
MINUTES**

Chairman Fleischer call the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

Members present: Fleischer, Baxendale, Harker, Rechsteiner, Shack & Taylor

Members absent: Vega

Also present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette

REORGANIZATION

The Commission will reorganize at its meeting on September 9, 2013. The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Shack, to elect Robert Fleischer as chairman until September 9, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACCESS

The Commission met with Al Collins, project manager, and Lorayne Black, Landscape Architect, to discuss the proposed access to the Boutwell House, owned by the Groton Historical Society (GHS). Mr. Collins explained that the Boutwell House is undergoing substantial improvements funded, in part, by Community Preservation Funds. The GHS will install a new walkway to the back porch as shown on the plans. This entrance will be the new main entrances to the building. The slope of the walkway is 4.5% so a handrail is not required. Plantings will be used to soften the appearance of the walkway. The surface will be compacted stonedust. Commission members expressed concerns about the suitability of stonedust.

Chairman Fleischer asked if the route to Main Street would be accessible or only the route to the designated parking space. Mr. Collins said the walkway to Main Street would meet the requirements without the need for a handrail.

Member Harker said he would like handrails on both sides of the walkway, especially for bad weather conditions. Ms. Black said the slope is less than 5% so handrails are not required. Mr. Collins added that the handrails would take away from the historic character of the site. He said they are trying to comply with code, work within the budget, and address historical concerns. Member Harker asked if the GHS would consider adding handrails at a later date if they are needed. Mr. Collins said, "yes."

Member Harker asked if the accessible parking space would have the required signage. Mr. Collins said, "yes."

The Commission discussed whether to approve of the proposed plan. Community Access Monitor Michelle Collette said the Commission is an advisory/advocacy group. The Building Commissioner has jurisdiction under the Architectural Access Board Regulations and the Planning Board has jurisdiction under Site Plan Review. In addition, the project is located in the Historic District and must be reviewed by the Historic Districts Commission. She recommended that the applicant meet with the Building Commissioner to discuss compliance with the Architectural Access Board Regulations.

August 12, 2013

Page 2

TOWN MEETING REVIEW COMMITTEE

Scott Harker and Ellen Baxendale said there was no new information from the Town Meeting Review Committee at this time.

The next meeting will be held on September 9, 2013 at 3:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator