

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2014 at 3:00 PM
MINUTES**

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

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

Members absent: Shack

Also present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette, Sign Language Interpreter Michael Vega

TOWN MEETING ISSUES

The Commission discussed its recommendations to the Board of Selectmen about accessibility issues at Town Meeting. The members were more concerned about seating in the auditorium than about parking. Commission members will request that companion seating be provided adjacent to the wheelchair accessible seats as required in the Architectural Access Board Regulations. The Commission suggested asking regular volunteers to bring microphones to people with mobility issues so they do not have to stand in line at the microphones.

The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Rechsteiner, to request that Town Moderator Jason Kauppi attend a Commission meeting to discuss accessibility concerns. The motion passed unanimously.

POLLING LOCATION COMMITTEE

Town Clerk Michael Bouchard attended the meeting to update the Commission on new polling locations. He said the Town will continue to vote at the Groton Dunstable Schools until a new location is identified. Member Scott Harker and ADA Coordinator are on the Polling Location Committee.

GROTON GOLF AND POOL CENTER – CPC APPLICATION

The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Rechsteiner, to support the Groton Golf and Pool Center's application to the Community Preservation Committee for funding to prepare an accessibility study of the Golf and Pool Center. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD – HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN

The Commission discussed the draft Housing Production Plan prepared by the Planning Board as part of the Comprehensive Master Plan, Phase II Implementation. Commission members wanted more time to review the plan. The Commission will meet on Monday, January 27, 2014 to prepare its comments to the Planning Board.

COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette reported that she had complaints that the accessible parking spaces at 134 Main Street are not properly installed and do not comply with the Architectural Access Board regulations. She said she would work with the Building Commissioner on appropriate enforcement action.

Member Taylor expressed concerns about crosswalks on Main Street being difficult to navigate. The Commission will request a meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss its concerns about crosswalks and universal access issues in the Town Center.

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Commission members said the newly renovated Fitch's Bridge is still not accessible. The large crushed stones have been removed to make pedestrian/wheelchair passage easier. However, the granite blocks still prevent access to the bridge.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 3:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator