

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY  
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014 at 4:00 PM  
MINUTES**

Vice Chairman Rechsteiner called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

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

Members absent: Fleischer & Vega

Also present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette  
Planning Board Chairman George Barringer

**COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS**

The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Baxendale, to add Mill Run Plaza accessibility concerns to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Baxendale described a recent experience she had at the North Middlesex Savings Bank (NMSB) in Mill Run Plaza. One of the required accessible parking spaces had been blacked out and eliminated. The other accessible space was difficult to navigate because the “Van Accessible” area was not wide enough. Ms. Baxendale said she needed assistance getting out of her vehicle with her walker. She said the NMSB said it would correct the problem.

Planning Board Chairman George Barringer said the Planning Board would discuss the Mill Run Plaza accessible parking issue at its June 12, 2014 meeting. ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said she would ask the Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer to look into the matter. He also enforces the Architectural Access Board Regulations.

**COMMENTS ON POLLING LOCATION**

The Commission discussed the new polling location at the Groton Country Club for Precincts 2 and 3. The Town Election on May 20, 2014 was the first time the new location had been used.

Members expressed concerns about lack of signage and the need to regrade the sloped area between the parking lot and function hall. ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said the Town Clerk has a punch list of items to be addressed prior to the next election.

The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Shack, to request that the outstanding items on the Town Clerk’s list be corrected before the next election. The motion passed unanimously.

**PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND PARKING ON MAIN STREET**

Vice Chairman Rechsteiner reiterated the Commission’s concerns about parked cars on Main Street blocking sight distances at intersections, particularly at Station Avenue, 134 Main Street, and Donelan’s Market. The lack of sight distance results in a very dangerous situation.

Planning Board Chairman George Barringer said the Planning Board shares the Commission’s concerns and would like to see parking prohibited within 15 ft of crosswalks and intersections

as required in State regulations. He said the Selectmen have jurisdiction over parking on Main Street. The Board will ask the Selectmen to use a phased approach to address the problem starting at the intersection of Main Street and Station Avenue.

The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Rechsteiner, to send a letter to the Selectmen explaining the Commission's concerns. The motion passed unanimously. Vice Chairman Rechsteiner will write the letter on behalf of the Commission.

#### **SELF EVALUATION PLAN**

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said the Town has not reviewed its self-evaluation plan in many years and suggested that the Commission work on updating the plan. The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Rechsteiner, to contact the Commission on Disabilities for examples of plans from other towns. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **ACCESSIBLE TRAIL - RICH STATE FOREST**

The Commission received a request from the Trails Committee to write a letter of support for the grant application to construct an accessible trail from Sand Hill Road to the Nashua River in the Rich State Forest. The motion was made by Baxendale, seconded by Shack, to send a letter of support for the Trail's Committee grant application to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **NESSP TEMPLE**

The Commission received a copy of a decision from the Architectural Access Board granting a variance for the front steps at the proposed NESSP Temple. Accessible entrances will be provided at the side doors where the elevator will be located.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 14, 2014 at 4:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette  
ADA Coordinator