

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014 at 4:00 PM  
MINUTES**

Chairman Fleischer called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

Members present: Fleischer, Harker, Rechsteiner Taylor & Vega

Members absent: Baxendale and Shack

Also present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette, Sign Language Interpreter Christina Stockin, and Trails Committee Chairman Paul Funch

**GROTONFEST**

The Commission discussed Grotonfest and how accessibility can be improved in the future. Member Harker said the Commission should offer candy to people who stop by the booth. Chairman Fleischer said the accessible door to Legion Hall should not have been locked because people had to ask for the door to be unlocked to use the accessible restrooms. Additionally, the sidewalk to the side door was blocked making access to the door via the sidewalk impossible. It was also quite difficult to navigate from booth to booth with a wheelchair or walker.

Mr. Funch said he agreed that a clear, accessible pathway should be marked. He said the horse and pony rides were great but they were not accessible.

The Commission will contact the Grotonfest organizers to discuss planning for accessibility for next year.

**TRAIL ACCESS GRANT**

Trails Committee Chairman Paul Funch reported that the grant application to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for \$22,000 for an accessible trail in the Rich State Forest was not funded. The DCR received 74 applications and funded 47. The Trails Committee would like to apply to the DCR in FY 2016 and will also apply to the Community Preservation Committee for matching funds.

The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Taylor, to send a letter of support to the Community Preservation Committee for the Trails Committee's application for the accessible trail at the Rich State Forest. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADA SELF-EVALUATION/TRANSITION PLAN**

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette recommended inviting a representative for the **Northeast** Independent Living Program to the Commission's meeting on November 17, 2014. The Commission could inquire about preparing a self-evaluation/transition plan for parks, playgrounds, and open space. The Commission could apply for Community Preservation Funds for the project.

The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Rechsteiner, to invite a representative from the Northeast Independent Living Program to the Commission's meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Funch suggested including Seven Hills to discuss improving the trail from its facility on Hillside Avenue to the rail trail.

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The motion was made by Taylor, seconded by Rechsteiner, to invite a representative from Seven Hills to the Commission's meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS**

Members reiterated their concerns about lack of accessibility parking at Town Hall and insufficient lighting Legion Hall and in the parking lot and along the sidewalk at the Groton Country Club.

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said the Town Clerk and DPW Director are working to address these concerns.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 17, 2014 at 4:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette  
ADA Coordinator