

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY  
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015 at 4:00 PM  
MINUTES**

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

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

Members absent: Rechsteiner and Shack

Also present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette, Sign Language Interpreter Christina Stockin, and Grotonfest Organizer Jane Bouvier

**COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS**

Member Harker expressed frustration about people driving with placards in place which is a violation of law and subject to fines and penalties. ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette suggested that Member Harker discuss the matter with the Police Chief because it is a traffic safety issue. Member Harker said he would like to see local Police Departments trained on this issue and suggested that the Commission act as a “middle man.”

Member Vega said this is a police matter, not a matter for the Commission on Accessibility. Member Harker said it is the Commission’s responsibility to help the handicapped and this is an inappropriate use of placards. Member Vega stressed that this is not the Commission’s responsibility and we should let the Police handle it. Member Baxendale said it is very similar to the law requiring that people wear seatbelts.

**TOWN MEETING ACCOMMODATIONS**

Members discussed their observations and concerns about Town Meeting and asked how a secret ballot would be adjusted for people with disabilities in the event a secret ballot vote passed.

Member Baxendale noted that there are not enough parking spaces for people with disabilities for Town Meeting. She suggested that the Commission request the Town to add temporary spaces in the parking lot closest to the Performing Arts Center. Member Vega said the additional parking spaces should be set aside in advance of Town Meeting so they are available when people arrive.

Ms. Bouvier added her concern about broken concrete in the parking lot. Member Harker added that more lighting in the parking lots is needed.

The Commission’s concerns will be brought to the attention of the Town Manager, Moderator and Town Clerk.

**GROTONFEST ACCOMMODATIONS**

The Commission met with Grotonfest Organizer Jane Bouvier to discuss ways to improve access for people with disabilities. The Commission suggested the following:

- Keep the accessible entrance to Legion Hall unlocked so people with disabilities can use the accessible bathrooms in the building.
- Set aside all parking spaces behind Boutwell School as accessible and ask vendors to park at the Sacred Heart Church parking lot.

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- Move booths back into School Street to leave a width of 48" on the pavement for pedestrian and wheelchair access in front of the booths. Navigating on the sloped grassed area is very difficult.
- Set aside an area along School Street where people with disabilities can have an unobstructed view of the stage.

Member Harker suggested that Grotonfest be relocated to another venue. Ms. Bouvier said Grotonfest would stay at Legion Common.

### **GROTON COMMONS**

Ms. Bouvier, speaking as a resident of Groton Commons, inquired about the number of accessible parking spaces at Groton Commons. She said 6-8 residents have placards and there are not enough accessible spaces for everyone.

The Commission said it would ask the Building Commissioner to determine if the parking is in compliance with the Architectural Access Board Regulations and to follow up with RCAP, the owner of the property.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, 2015 at 4:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette  
ADA Coordinator