

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015 at 4:00 PM
MINUTES**

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

Members present: Fleischer, Baxendale, Harker, & Taylor

Members absent: Rechsteiner, Vega, and Shack

Also present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette, NEILP Consultants June Savage and James Lyons, Park Commissioner Gineane Haberlin, Trails Committee member Paul Funch, and resident James Buckhalter

ADA SELF-EVALUATION/TRANSITION PLAN

James Lyons of the Northeast Independent Living Program (NEILP) presented the proposal and contract for the ADA Self-Evaluation/Transition plan of the Town's parks, playgrounds, and open space sites. Mr. Lyons said he is prepared to commence work on July 1, 2015. He will do site visits to look for barriers and follow up with a written report on how to eliminate those barriers. His report will also include a cost estimate and time line for the recommended improvements. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the staff of the NEILP are people with disabilities. The final report will include the following information:

- Identified barriers
- Regulations number
- Proposed solutions
- Person responsible to correct barriers
- Cost estimate
- Completion date

When the ADA Self-evaluation/Transition plan is adopted, the Town will be in compliance with ADA. The plan, goals, and timeline must be realistic. The goals must be met for the Town to maintain compliance with ADA. Mr. Lyons said the best way to achieve compliance is to work with people with disabilities. He encouraged members of the Commission to accompany him on the site inspections.

The Commission discussed public outreach. Information can be distributed at Grotonfest, and the Commission will hold a public hearing on the draft plan prior to the adoption of the final plan. Proposed improvements will be prioritized in the plan.

Mr. Lyons said he will visit two sites per week so the draft plan will be done in October and the final plan will be done in December.

Ms. Haberlin said the Park Commission will be going out to bid on improvements to Cutler Field, the Lawrence Playground, and the Cow Pond Brook Road playing fields. The Commission said it would prioritize the site visits on those properties. The Commission asked Conservation Administrator Takashi Tada to provide the Conservation Commission's top three priority sites for evaluation.

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COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

Resident James Buckhalter sent an email message to the Commission and attended the meeting to express his concern with access to the Gamlin-Crystal Springs property, owned by the Groton Conservation Trust, from the end of Cow Pond Brook Road. He said he has a 39" wide track chair and would like to use the trails on the Gamlin property when he goes to the transfer station. The locked gate at the end of the road prevents him from being able to access the trails. The Commission and Mr. Lyons will look at the Gamlin property and the Cow Pond Brook Road playing fields on its first site visit in July. Mr. Buckhalter will attend the site visit, if possible.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 10, 2015 at 4:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator