

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 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 Consultant James Lyons, Trails Committee member Paul Funch, and resident James Buckhalter

ADA POLICY DISCUSSION

James Lyons of the Northeast Independent Living Program recommended that the Town adopt a policy in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as part of the Self-evaluation Transition Plan for parks, playgrounds, and open space. He prepared a draft document for the Commission's consideration. The draft policy covers the five administrative areas of ADA.

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette recommended that the Commission take time to review the draft prior to taking any votes. When ready, the Commission should make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen on the adoption of the policy because it is applicable to many different Town departments and functions.

Commission members asked if the policy only applies to the Town and not to the Groton Dunstable Regional Schools. ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said the school district is a separate legal entity with its own policies and procedures.

The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Baxendale, to postpone discussion on the draft ADA Policy until the September 14, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

ADA SELF-EVALUATION/TRANSITION PLAN

Mr. Lyons updated the Commission on the Self-Evaluation/Transition plan. He said he has evaluated five properties to date. ADA Commission members Bob Fleischer and Alan Taylor, ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette, Park Commissioners Gineane Haberlin and Matt Frary, and Conservation Commission Administrator Takashi Tada have accompanied Mr. Lyons on the site visits.

Mr. Lyons said Groton has great volunteerism and a very affirmative outlook. His report will identify areas to be addressed along with cost estimates. He said he is looking forward to attending Grotonfest as part of the public outreach portion of the plan.

COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

Member Harker expressed concern about the lack of sufficient outside lighting at Legion Hall. He said the lack of lighting makes it very difficult to navigate your way to your vehicle after evening meetings.

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said she received a complaint from the owners of the Che Bella Spa at 3 Forge Village Road. They lease space on the second floor and the elevator had not been working for four months. Clients with mobility issues had to cancel appointments at

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the spa. Ms. Collette said she contacted the building owner and the problem was corrected in a few days. The elevator is working and passed inspection by the State Elevator Inspector.

Member Harker said the Commission should remind businesses to repaint their accessible parking spaces before winter. He suggested making such a request with annual license renewals. The Commission suggested sending a reminder to business owners in October instead because licenses are renewed on January 1st.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 4:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator