

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015 AT 4:00 PM
MINUTES**

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

Members present: Fleischer, Baxendale, Harker, Rechsteiner, Shack, Taylor, and Vega

Also present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette and NILP Consultant James Lyons

ADA POLICY DISCUSSION

The Committee continued the discussion with James Lyons of the Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP) on the draft policy to be adopted by the Town in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as part of the Self-Evaluation Transition Plan for parks, playgrounds, and open space. Paul Funch edited the document for the Committee's consideration. The draft policy covers the five administrative areas of ADA.

Member Harker asked about the required forms such as the significant assistance form. Mr. Lyons said these are standard forms required by ADA.

Member Vega asked why elevators are not required. Mr. Lyons said elevators are not required for existing buildings unless the building is being renovated and the cost of the renovations exceed 30% of the value of the building. This was a compromise reached with the State Legislature.

The motion was made by Rechsteiner, seconded by Vega, to forward the draft ADA Policy to the Board of Selectmen and request that the Selectmen adopt the policy. The motion passed unanimously.

ADA SELF-EVALUATION/TRANSITION PLAN

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette expressed appreciation for all the work done by Jim Lyons and Sheila Radziewicz and by numerous Town volunteers on the ADA Self Evaluation/Transition plan. It has been a wonderful partnership and learning experience for all who participated.

Mr. Lyons said the final report is complete and ready for the Commission to hold a public hearing. He said he enjoyed participating in Grotonfest and hopes to be invited back next year. He said once the policy is adopted, it is up to Town Departments to implement the plan by installing signs, creating required accessible parking spaces, etc. None of the recommendations are difficult or too expensive.

The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Rechsteiner, to hold a public hearing on December 14, 2015 at 3:00 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion was made by Rechsteiner seconded by Vega, to process payment to the NILP for the project. The motion passed unanimously.

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette and Mr. Lyons suggested that the Town sponsor ADA Training with Town employees and volunteers as part of the implementation plan.

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COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

Member Vega expressed concerns about Charter Cable TV and closed captioning. She said she may switch to Verizon in the future.

Member Shack expressed concern about difficulty opening the heavy doors at Town Hall and inquired about installed power door openers.

Member Harker expressed concern that accessible parking spaces should be repainted in the spring. He suggested reaching out the local businesses to request that they repaint parking spaces.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator