

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015 AT 3:00 PM  
MINUTES**

Chairman Fleischer called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

Members present: Fleischer, Baxendale, Harker, and Shack

Members absent: Rechsteiner, Taylor, and Vega

Also present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette and NEILP Consultants James Lyons

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Commission on Accessibility held a public hearing to hear comments on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Self-Evaluation/Transition Plan for the Town of Groton's Parks, Playgrounds and Open Space, prepared by the Northeast Program Independent Living Program, Inc.; the Northeast ADA Access Group, dated November 16, 2015.

Chairman Fleischer called the public hearing to order. Member Baxendale read the public hearing notice published in the November 27 & December 4, 2015 issues of the Groton Herald. James Lyons of the NILP, Trails Committee Chairman Paul Funch, and several Town Hall employees were present.

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette presented Power Point slides explaining the Self Evaluation/Transition Plan funded by a grant from the Community Preservation Committee. NILP prepared by plan with active participation from Town Departments and volunteers.

Member Harker said this project is the most important work done by the Commission since he has been a member.

Member Rechsteiner said this plan is an outstanding effort to enable people to enjoy the countryside and outdoors. It has been very positive experience.

Mr. Funch agreed that this has been a very worthwhile project and suggested that the Commission identify other areas of Town that where accessibility could be improved. Mr. Lyons agreed that an updated study of Town-owned buildings would be worthwhile.

Mr. Lyons noted that he would recommend making the stage at Grotonfest accessible for all participants.

Mr. Funch asked how to mark accessible parking spaces in unpaved parking lots such as the parking lot created for the new accessible trail at the Rich State Forest. Mr. Lyons said such spaces should be designated by the required signage for van accessible parking spaces.

The Commission voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Baxendale to accept the ADA Self-Evaluation/Transition Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

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The motion was made by Harker, seconded by Shack, to hold future meetings at 4 :00 PM rather than 3:00 PM so Member Vega and the Sign Language Interpreter could attend. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette  
ADA Coordinator