

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016, 4:00 PM
MINUTES**

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

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

Members absent: Shack

Also present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette and Sign Language Interpreter
Christina Stockin

MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL ON AGING – SENIOR CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Commission met with Council on Aging (COA) Director Kathy Shelp and COA Member George Faircloth to discuss the proposed Feasibility Study for the Senior Center. Article 7 on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant is requesting funding in the amount of \$40,000 for the study.

Ms. Shelp said the study will review three locations: the existing senior center, the Prescott School, and the Country Club. There are accessibility issues at the present location because there is no elevator. There is poor internal circulation for programs. People who have trouble with stairs must go outside and down the ramp from the first floor and into a rear down to access the basement level. Many exercise and wellness programs are held in the basement level. Additionally, there are no automatic door openers at the existing facility. The senior population is growing with more than 2000 residents above the age of 60. This demographic trend is throughout the Commonwealth.

Mr. Faircloth, on behalf of the COA, requested the Commission's support of Article 7 at Town Meeting.

Member Baxendale asked if a Request for Proposals (RFP) was done. Ms. Shelp said, "yes," that is how the COA determined that the cost of the study would be \$40,000. Nine proposals were submitted and two architects were interviewed.

Member Baxendale said there was a fire at the front door of the Senior Center, it would be difficult for some people to get out the rear door. Ms. Shelp said there are also two exits in the basement, but there are many accessibility issues with the existing facility.

Member Harker asked how many of the 2000 seniors are being served today. Ms. Shelp said approximately 900 seniors come through the Senior Center for a variety of programs. The seating capacity of the first floor room is 50-70 people.

Chairman Fleischer said the case for improving accessibility is clear. The Senior Center is used for many other meetings and various functions.

The motion was made by Baxendale, seconded by Harker, to support Article 7 at Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Fleischer will speak on the article at Town Meeting.

April 11, 2016

Page 2

ADA TRAINING PROGRAM

The Commission on Accessibility and Council on Aging will co-sponsor a training session on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on Friday, May 20, 2016 at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center. The Northeast Independent Living Program will facilitate the training. The COA will handle the RSVP's for the program. (Please note the time was changed to 10 AM.)

CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

Member Harker reiterated his concerns about parking spaces that are not properly marked with lines on the ground and signage.

Commission members are concerned about employees parking in the accessible parking space at the Mobil Station and will ask the Building Commissioner to follow up with the owner and store manager. Member Vega said this is a matter for the Police Department to handle, not the Commission on Accessibility.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator