

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016, 4:00 PM
MINUTES**

Chairman Fleischer called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM
Members present: Fleischer, Baxendale, Vega, and Taylor
Members absent: Buckhalter, Rechsteiner, and Shack
Also present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette and
Sign Language Interpreter Christina Stockin

GROTONWOOD LODGE

The Commission met with Attorney Robert Collins to review plans to reconstruct the Memorial Lodge at Grotonwood, owned by the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts (TABCOM). The original dormitory was completely destroyed by fire months ago. Mr. Collins said the original, three-story building will be replaced by a two-story building constructed on grade with access to the first floor and second floor from grade level. The building will be fully accessible and all ADA and Architectural Access Board requirements will be met. Handicapped parking spaces and paved walked ways will be provided. The new building will be closer to the dining hall than the previous building. Fire sprinklers will be installed as required by the Building Code. The first floor will contain secure offices and the second floor will contain the bedrooms.

Chairman Fleischer asked if there would be a meeting room in the building. Mr. Collins said, "yes." Mr. Collins described the services provided by Grotonwood to both adults and children in the disability community for many years. The new building will meet the needs much better than the older structure, which was a converted barn. Grotonwood has always been very inclusive and welcoming.

Member Baxendale asked if the bathrooms would be accessible. Mr. Collins said, "Yes," as required by Code.

Member Taylor asked about the grade of the driveway to the rear of the building. Mr. Collins said they are working with existing grades with the building constructed into the embankment. The finished grades will be under 5% so ramps are not required.

Member Baxendale asked about a second means of access. Mr. Collins said there are two accesses, and both are on grade level.

The motion was made by Vega, seconded by Baxendale, to write a letter of support of the project proposed by Grotonwood to the Building Commissioner. The motion passed unanimously.

GROTON SCHOOL SIDEWALKS ON FARMERS ROW

Attorney Collins described the new sidewalks that will be constructed on Farmers Row and Peabody Street. The project is being funded by Groton School. Five new crosswalks will be installed on Farmers Row as part of the project.

GROTONFEST

The Commission on Accessibility and the NILP will share the booth at Grotonfest again this year. The Committee asked the event organizers about improving accessible parking and better access to the stage and bathrooms. The event will take place on Saturday, September 24, 2016.

CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

Town Hall, 173 Main Street – ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette reported that she spoke with the Town Manager about the Commission's request to install automatic door openers at the front and rear doors to the Town Hall. The Town Manager agreed to put an article on the warrant for the Fall Town Meeting to fund the door openers.

The motion was made by Baxendale, seconded by Vega, to support the warrant article. The motion passed unanimously.

Parking violations and MGL Chapter 40, Section 22G

The Town Clerk forwarded an email message from the Commonwealth's Commission on Disabilities inquiring whether the Town had adopted Chapter 40, Section 22G, which allows fines collected from handicapped parking violations to be given to the Commission on Accessibility.

The Town has not adopted the statute. Member Baxendale will meet with the Police Chief to ask about the number of parking tickets issued for handicapped parking violations in Groton. ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette will call the Commission on Disabilities to inquire about other communities that have such provisions.

MINUTES

The motion was made by Vega, seconded by Baxendale, to approve the minutes of June 13, 2016. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator