

[Type here]

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017, 4:00 PM
MINUTES**

Chairman Fleischer called the meeting to order at 4 PM at the Groton Senior Center.

Members present: Fleischer Baxendale, Taylor, and Vega

Members absent: Buckhalter, Rechsteiner, and Shack

Also present: COA Director Kathy Shelp, COA Outreach Coordinator Stacey Jones, COA Members Gail Chalmers, Ellen Baxendale, George Faircloth, Norma Garvin, Jean Sheedy, and Helen Sienkiewicz; ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette, Sign Language Interpreter Christina Stockin, and William Barron

SENIOR CENTER ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

The Commission on Accessibility and Council on Aging held a joint meeting to discuss accessibility issues at the existing Senior Center, especially in light of the defeat of the ballot question on the debt inclusion to fund architectural design for a new Senior Center.

Kathy Shelp and Michelle Collette met with Building Commissioner Ed Cataldo and DPW Director Tom Delaney prior to the meeting to review the list of problem areas identified in the Reinhardt Associates Feasibility Study. The DPW will be doing short-term repairs to address the critical issues.

Stacey Jones said the existing ramp is a problem, especially during bad weather. It should not be so difficult to access the building. Gail Chalmers said it is difficult for people working in the garden to access the building to use the restrooms.

George Faircloth said he is especially concerned about the lack of an accessible rear egress from the building in case of an emergency.

Ellen Baxendale said the hardware on the front doors should be replaced with accessible hardware.

Gail Chalmers said the stairs and ramp to the building should be covered. Both are difficult to navigate when it is raining or snowing. Kathy Shelp said covering the ramp and stairs is not required, but it should be done.

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said universal access is also an issue because the building is used as a polling location and warming station during emergencies.

Ellen Baxendale said the back egress on the first floor (basement level) is difficult because of the threshold and slope of the walkway to the door.

Kathy Shelp explained that the DPW would make repairs this year to address the most critical issues. More expensive issues, such as covering the stairs and ramp, would have to wait to a later date.

June 12, 2017

Page 2

Everyone agreed that an evacuation plan and an emergency exits from the rear door on the second floor and the door on the first floor are the most critical issue to address.

NEXT MEETING

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Monday, July 10, 2017 at 4 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator

