

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette  
Sign Language Interpreter Daniel Vega  
Friends of Prescott Members Mary Jennings and Bruce Easom  
Building Commissioner Edward Cataldo  
Land Uses Director Takashi Tada  
COA Director Kathy Shelp  
Residents Judy Anderson and William Barron

**COMMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD – PRESCOTT SCHOOL SPECIAL PERMIT**

The Commission met with Friends of Prescott Members Mary Jennings and Bruce Easom to discuss the Commission's comments to the Planning Board on the special permit application submitted by the Friends of Prescott School to lease 400 SF office space for business use. The Prescott School, owned by the Town of Groton, is located in the Town Center Overlay District. The Town leases the building to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and to the Friends of Prescott.

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said she walked the site with the Building Commissioner, the Land Use Director, and the DPW Director to review accessibility. Currently, the building is used for the Superintendent of Schools offices and Friends of Prescott continuing education programs. Ms. Collette noted that the Friends of Prescott web site and the brochure mailed to all postal patrons stated that the programs are universally accessible. Ms. Collette summarized improvements to the site and building that would improve accessibility.

The motion was made by Baxendale, seconded by Taylor, to submit the following comments to the Planning Board:

1. There are approximately 50 off-street parking spaces on the property, although the spaces are not well delineated. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Access Board Regulations, 521 CMR 23.00 Parking and Passenger Loading Zones, require three universally accessible parking spaces. One of the three spaces must be van accessible. There is one accessible space on the property today. The other two spaces should be located on the level area adjacent to the existing space. All three accessible parking spaces must comply with 521 CMR 23.00 including required signage and marking on the ground.
2. The existing ramp from the accessible parking spaces appears to conform to 521 CMR 24 Ramps, although the concrete is deteriorating in some spots and should be replaced sometime in the future.

3. The entrance door to the building from the ramp is very difficult to open. New hardware should be installed and the closer should comply with 521 CMR 26 Doors and Doorways. Automatic door openers are not required, but they are an option to address the concern.
4. The bathrooms are substantially in compliance with 521 CMR 31 Bathrooms. However, the hardware on the doors to the bathrooms and hardware on the doors to the stalls should be replaced with hardware that complies with 521 CMR 26 Doors.
5. The tables in the classrooms may be difficult for people in wheelchairs to utilize and participate in programs. The Friends of Prescott should consider purchasing appropriate tables that comply with 521 CMR 35 Tables and Seats, when necessary.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jenkins asked who is responsible for the improvements. ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said that decision must be worked out among the parties: the Town of Groton, the GDRDS, and the Friends of Prescott.

#### **SENIOR CENTER WARRANT ARTICLE**

The Commission met with COA Director Kathy Shelp to discuss the warrant article at the 2017 Fall Town Meeting to fund architectural design for a new senior center or addition/renovation of the existing senior center. Ms. Shelp said if the article passes, the architect will prepare full-design plans that will go out to bid. The cost will be known before the 2018 Spring Town Meeting is asked to vote on the project.

Commission members were very supportive because they are aware of the deficiencies of the current facility, particularly the accessibility issues.

Member Baxendale asked about progress on the short-term accessibility i was made by Baxendale, seconded by Taylor, improvements discussed at the June 12, 2017 meeting of the Commission on Accessibility and Council on Aging. Ms. Shelp said construction of the access ramp to the rear of the building is underway. Access to the first floor (basement level) will be done as soon as the DPW can do the work.

The motion was made by Baxendale, seconded by Taylor, to support the warrant article to fund design of the Senior Center at the Fall Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **COMPLETE STREETS ARTICLE**

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said the Town received the Complete Streets grant in the amount of \$339,272 from MassDOT to improve crosswalks, curb ramps to provide universal access for all pedestrians. The motion was made by Baxendale, seconded by Taylor, to support the warrant article for engineering of the Complete Streets projects. The motion passed unanimously.

**TOWN HALL PARKING**

The motion was made by Baxendale, seconded by Taylor, to request that the second accessible parking space be restored at the Town Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

**REORGANIZATION**

The motion was made by Taylor, seconded by Vega, to elect Member Baxendale Chairman and Member Fleischer Vice Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

**MINUTES**

The motion was made by Fleischer, seconded by Vega, to approve the minutes of May 2, 2017 and June 12, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW MEMBER**

The motion was made by Fleischer, seconded by Vega, to recommend that the Town Manager appoint William Barron to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Emil Rechsteiner. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Monday, November 13, 2017 at 4 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette  
ADA Coordinator