

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018, 2:00 PM
MINUTES**

Chairman Baxendale called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM at the Town Hall.

Members present: Baxendale, Fleischer, Sutton, and Taylor

Members absent: Barron, Shack, and Vega

Also present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette, Trails Committee Chairman Paul Funch, and resident Judy Anderson

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

The Commission welcomed new member Carol Ann Sutton. The Town Clerk swore her in and explained the Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Law.

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES GRANT

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said the Town applied for a grant from the Massachusetts Commission on Disabilities to prepare a new ADA Transition/Self-Evaluation Plan. The Town hired architect Greg Carrell to prepare a plan in the 1990's. However, the plan cannot be located in the Town's files or archives. The Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP) submitted a proposal, dated November 8, 2017, in the amount of \$11,500 to prepare the new plan. The Town is waiting to hear about the grant. If the grant is not awarded, the Commission will submit an article for the 2018 Spring Town Meeting to request funds to update the plan.

NEW SENIOR CENTER

Chairman Baxendale and ADA Coordinator Collette updated the Commission on the work of the Senior Center Building Committee. Local architect HKA and local engineer Ducharme and Dillis are preparing the plans to go out to bid this spring. The bids will be received prior to the Spring Town Meeting so the voters will know the exact cost of the project. The motion was made by Taylor, seconded by Fleischer, to invite the Senior Center Building Committee to do a presentation at the Commission meeting on March 12, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

TRAILS COMMITTEE CPC APPLICATION

Trails Committee Chairman Paul Funch met with the Commission to request support for the application to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for \$19,000 for design funds for a new, universally accessible trail along the Nashua River. The trail will be named the "Marion Stoddart Riverwalk." The trail will begin on Long Hill Road (Route 225) and end at the Fairgrounds on Jenkins Road. Funding is required to design the trail and apply for permits from the Conservation Commission, the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The trail will meet all ADA standards.

Chairman Baxendale asked if horses and dog walkers would be allowed on the trail. Mr. Funch said, "yes," the surface of the trail would be stabilized for horse traffic. He added that the residents of the abutting Partridgeberry Woods subdivision have expressed concerns about additional public use of the area. The Police Department agreed to patrol the area. The Conservation Commission, holder of the conservation restriction on the property, voted unanimously to support the project.

Judy Anderson and Commission members commended the Trails Committee for the newly constructed "John Tinker Trail" from Nod Road to the Nashua River on the Rich State Forest. Mr. Funch said the proposed trail will be similar in design.

The motion was made by Fleischer, seconded by Sutton, to send a letter supporting the project to the CPC. The motion passed unanimously.

COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS

Mobil Station - ADA Coordinator Collette said there are still on-going issues with the employees at the Mobil Station on Boston Road parking in the van accessible striped area. She said she would notify the Police Department if it happens again.

Prescott School – Most of the ADA compliance issues at the Prescott School have been corrected. Outstanding issues include the difficulty opening the door into the building from the ramp and the lack of accessible hardware in the rest rooms.

Williams Barn – The Commission will remind the Williams Barn Committee and the Conservation Commission to order an accessible Porta-Potty for events at the Williams Barn.

MINUTES

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2017 and November 13, 2017 meetings.

NEXT MEETING

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 2 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator