

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018, 3:00 PM
MINUTES**

Chairman Baxendale called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM at the Town Hall.

Members present: Baxendale, Barron, Fleischer, and Taylor

Members absent: Shack, Sutton, and Vega

Also present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette, Jim Lyons and Grant Murphy of the Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP), SLI Sirena Lemieux, Selectwoman Becky Pine, and residents Judy Anderson and Jane Fry

PUBLIC HEARING - ADA SELF EVALUATION-TRANSITION PLAN FOR TOWN BUILDINGS

The Commission on Accessibility held a public hearing to hear comments on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Self-Evaluation/Transition Plan for Town-owned buildings, prepared by the Northeast Program Independent Living Program, Inc. and the Northeast ADA Access Group, dated October 15, 2018. The Self-Evaluation/Transition Plan is on file in the Town Hall and available on the Town's website at: www.townofgroton.org.

Chairman Baxendale called the public hearing to order by reading the legal notice published in the November 23 and 30, 2018 issues of the *Groton Herald*. ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette summarized the process used to prepare the Self Evaluation-Transition Plan. She said the deadlines are flexible and that she would meet with Department Heads on January 9, 2019 to discuss the implementation of the plan.

Jim Lyons of the NILP explained that the Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted by Congress and signed into law by George HW Bush in 1990. ADA is a Civil Rights Law based upon earlier legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Rehabilitation Act of 1978.

Mr. Lyons said he and Grant Murphy of the NILP walked through the Town-owned buildings with the ADA Coordinator, the Building Commissioner, the DPW Director and some department heads.

He said the Town will be in compliance with ADA if the plan is adopted and in place. He added that he is very impressed that many of the changes have already been implemented.

The Commission members commented on the following items in the plan:

Town Hall – The location of one of the two accessible parking spaces is in a location where snow falls off the roof. This space should be relocated and a required van accessible sign should be installed.

Country Club - Member Sutton read her email message to the Town Clerk describing her frustration with using the accessible voting machine at the Country Club on Election Day on November 6, 2018. The Town Clerk is working with the election workers to correct the problem with the accessible voting machines.

Prescott School – An elevator or chair lift should be installed to provide access to the third floor in the building. The elevator would be very expensive, and the Building Commissioner said a chairlift cannot be utilized in a three-story building. The Commission received an email from Fran Stanley questioning the accuracy of the cost estimate for the installation of the elevator. She said the cost could be much higher based upon previous estimates by architects working with the Prescott Reuse Committee. All members agreed that a handrail should be installed at the front steps.

The motion was made by Fleischer, seconded by Barron, to change the June 30, 2019 deadlines to December 31, 2019 to give Town departments to request funding and time to implement the changes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

NEXT MEETING

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 3:00 PM at Groton Commons, 74 Willowdale Road.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator