

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019, 10:00 AM
MINUTES**

Vice Chairman Jane Fry called the meeting to order at 10 AM at the Groton Center, 163 West Main Street

Members present: Fleischer, Fry, Sutton, and Taylor
Member absent: Shack
Others present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette, Kathryn Pontes of the Worcester Public Library, Jim Lyons and Grant Murphy of the Northeast Independent Living Program, and many members of the public

TALKING BOOK LIBRARY PROGRAM

Kathryn Pontes gave a very informative presentation on the Talking Book Library Program for people with low vision who are print disabled. She demonstrated the use of the accessible tape player. Audio tapes are mailed with no postage required. The program is available through the Worcester Public Library and the Perkins Library in Waltham. The Library of Congress provides funding for the program through the United States. Ms. Pontes explained the application process which requires sign off by a physician.

People had many questions about how the program works and what is available. Ms. Pontes said there is also a “BARD” application for tablets and cell phones. Books, magazines, newspapers, and music scores are available.

NEW MEMBERS

The motion was made by Fleischer, seconded by Sutton, to recommend that the Select Board appoint Tom and Lynne Pistorino to the Commission on Accessibility. The motion passed unanimously.

NILP UPDATE

Jim Lyons and Grant Murphy of the Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP) described the services provided to people with disabilities in our area. The agency is an important resource for people who need personal care assistants (PCA). The NILP has offices in Lowell and Lawrence. Both Mr. Lyons and Mr. Grant worked on the Town’s Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans for Town-owned Buildings (2018) and Open Space, Parks and Playgrounds (2015).

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator