

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022, 1:00 PM
MINUTES**

Chairman Robert Fleisher called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM at the Groton Center

Members present: Bob Fleischer, Judy Anderson, Lynne Pistorino and Tom Pistorino

Members absent: Alan Taylor

Others present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette and Housing Coordinator Fran Stanley

MINUTES

The motion was made by Judy Anderson, seconded by Tom Pistorino, to approve the minutes of April 26, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LOCK BOXES

Member Tom Pistorino presented his research with the Groton Fire Department and other communities including Pepperell, Wayland, and Westford, on the installation of lock boxes for access to homes in emergencies. The lock boxes are mounted on the outside of the house with a key inside the box. The Fire Department has a master key to open all the boxes. The price of each box is approximately \$150. The program could be integrated with other programs and use a combination rather than a master key to open the boxes.

The Commission could work with the Council on Aging (COA) and others to promote the program. Publicity could be through the COA newsletter and an insert in the Groton Electric Light Department bills. The next step in the process is to work with the Fire Department. The goal would be to have the program in place by the end of 2022 so the boxes could be installed in 2023. The Commission on Accessibility would like to work with the COA and Friends of the Elders on this project.

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

The Commission discussed the need to work with other organizations, such as the Council on Aging and the Friends of the Elders, to compile a list of social service agencies and resources available to people in need and their families. The Commission will invite the new Outreach Coordinator to a meeting to prepare such a list. ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said Housing Coordinator Fran Stanley is also a great resource and provides people with information.

HOUSING UPDATE

Housing Coordinator Fran Stanley updated the Commission about a pending Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit application to be submitted by Omni Properties to construct affordable housing on property formerly owned by Deluxe Corporation located on Main Street. The Commission should be prepared to review the proposal and submit comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals when the time comes.

May 16, 2022

Page 2

NEXT MEETING

The Commission will meet in June or July on a date to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator