

COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022, 1:00 PM
MINUTES

Chairman Fleischer called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM at the Groton Center and via ZOOM

Members present at the Center: Judy Anderson

Members participating via ZOOM: Bob Fleischer, Lynne Pistorino and Tom Pistorino

Others present at the Center: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette

Others present via ZOOM: Select Board Member/COA Van Driver Peter Cunningham

FOLLOW-UP ON COMPLAINT FROM PATRICIA KAROHL, 515A MAIN STREET

The Commission received letters dated July 9, 2022, and August 10, 2022, from Attorney Timothy Sullivan, representing Randall Dean, Trustee, as owner of the condominium unit and father-in-law of Patricia Karohl, resident at Groton Residential Gardens (GRG) at 515A Main Street. Attorney Sullivan's letter objected to the GRG condominium association's plans to re-install the asphalt curb which is a barrier to Ms. Karohl's ability to access her unit. The asphalt berm had been removed by the pavers when the parking lot and sidewalks were repaved. The pavers installed a gentle-sloped curb cut instead of the berm.

Attorney Sullivan's letters were forwarded to Town Counsel with a request for an opinion on the matter. Town Counsel said the local Commission on Accessibility does not have legal authority to enforce the Architectural Access Board Regulations or issue fines. That authority is with the Building Commissioner and the AAB. Ms. Collette said she advised Attorney Sullivan to contact the AAB and, perhaps, the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Member Tom Pistorino asked about the cost of \$4500 cited in Attorney Sullivan's letter. Ms. Collette said she did not know any details. When Ms. Collette spoke with Attorney Sullivan's legal assistant, she said they were not able to obtain the information from the Condominium Association or the property manager on the cost estimate.

Peter Cunningham said the cost to the condominium association and the amount levied on unit owners is a private matter. We will not know the details of the costs unless they share the information with us.

Member Tom Pistorino asked what action we were being asked to take at this meeting. Ms. Collette said the Commission does not have the authority under the AAB Regulations. The letter dated June 29, 2022, on behalf of Patricia Karohl was a recommendation. It is the Commission's role to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities.

Member Anderson noted that there are two other Comprehensive Permit applications under Chapter 40A pending. The Commission should be an advocate to be sure all AAB regulations are followed. Ms. Collette agreed and said Commission members should attend the Zoning Board of Appeals public hearings on 40B applications.

MINUTES

The motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Pistorino, to approve the minutes of June 28, 2022. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote with Anderson – aye, Fleischer - aye, Lynne Pistorino – aye, and Tom Pistorino - aye.

NEXT MEETING

The Commission will meet on Monday, September 12, 2022, at 1 PM unless there is a need to meet sooner. *(Note: This meeting was postponed until September 26, 2022 at 1 PM.)*

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator