

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022, 1:00 PM
MINUTES**

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

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

Member absent: Alan Taylor

Others present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette

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

The Commission reviewed the complaint filed by Patricia Karohl regarding problems with access from the parking lot to her unit at 515A Main Street, Groton Residential Gardens (see previous minutes).

The Commission received a letter dated August 10, 2022, and an email dated August 21, 2022, from Mrs. Karohl's attorney, Timothy Sullivan, and an opinion from Town Counsel. Despite efforts by the Commission, the Building Commissioner, and others, the condominium association and property management company reinstalled the asphalt berm barrier at the edge of the parking lot at 515 Main Street.

Commission members discussed how it could have handled the matter better, including getting involved earlier in the process with the condominium association and property management company. The Commission is an advocate for people with disabilities, but it does not have any authority. Such matters are handled by the Building Commissioner, the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board, and the US Department of Justice for civil rights violations.

The Commission discussed how to do better in the future, including working closely with the Zoning Board of Appeals during its review of the Comprehensive Permit issued pursuant to Chapter 40B. The Commission will invite developer John Amaral of Omni Properties to its next meeting to discuss his proposed Groton Farms project to be submitted shortly.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LOCK BOXES

The Commission is interested in working with the Fire Department on a voluntary program to install lock boxes with keys to provide access to homes in an emergency. Information sessions could be held at The Groton Center, the Groton Public Library, and other locations. Information can be distributed with the Groton Electric Light Department invoices and on the Groton Channel. The Commission will investigate whether the Commissioners of Trust Funds would provide financial assistance to homeowners who cannot afford to purchase a lock box.

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The motion was made by Judy Anderson, seconded by Tom Pistorino, to approve the minutes of August 18, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

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NEXT MEETING

The Commission will meet when John Amaral of Omni Properties is ready to present his plans, unless other matters arise in the meantime.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator