

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, 2:00 PM
MINUTES**

Chairman Fleischer called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM at the Town Hall

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

Others present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette, Housing Coordinator Fran Stanley,
and John Amaral

GROTON FARMS – COMMENTS TO THE ZBA

The Commission received a request to address potential trash removal issues for people with disabilities at the proposed Groton Farms Comprehensive Permit plan with rental units. Groton Farms applicant, John Amaral, and Housing Coordinator, Fran Stanley, were present at the meeting.

Mr. Amaral said they will manage all the rental units to be sure all tenants are happy. This includes providing assistance when needed.

The Committee reviewed the following condition to be submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) at the public hearing to be held on September 6, 2023:

“As offered by the applicant, the applicant, future owners and property managers, shall provide reasonable accommodations, if requested, to assist any resident with disabilities with trash removal or other challenges they may face utilizing the services at Groton Farms.”

The proposed condition mirrors the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Architectural Access Board Regulations.

Member Pistorino asked what would happen when a resident’s health declines and their apartment may need renovations to accommodate their needs. Mr. Amaral said 100% of the units can be renovated, including meeting the needs of the deaf and blind.

Chairman Fleischer asked if there would be wheelchair access everywhere or only to the units for people with disabilities. Mr. Amaral said the apartment buildings are accessible and 10 units, or 5% of the total, will be accessible as required by the Architectural Access Board Regulations. Mr. Amaral said they own and manage other rental properties and he is confident that they will meet the needs of all the residents.

The motion was made by Tom Pistorino, seconded by Judy Anderson, to submit the proposed condition to the ZBA as drafted, and to include a statement that the Committee is confident in the applicant’s ability to meet the needs of the residents at the Groton Farms development. The motion passed unanimously.

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The motion was made by Tom Pistorino, seconded by Judy Anderson, to approve the minutes of June 13, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS

The Committee asked for an update on the progress with the grant and installation of the universally accessible trail on the Rich State Forest property, owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and on the accessible trail to be installed on the Fitch property on Longley Road. ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette will check with Paul Funch, Chair of the Trails Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator