

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, 2:00 PM
MINUTES**

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

Members present: Robert Fleischer, Judy Anderson, Molly Foster, Lynne Pistorino, and Tom Pistorino, and Alan Taylor

Others present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette, Housing Coordinator Farn Stanley, Land Use Director Takashi Tada, and Conservation Commission Chairman Bruce Easom

ADA TRAINING

The Committee discussed the ADA Training with the Northeast Independent Living Program. The training will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Groton Senior Center. The Council on Aging is co-sponsoring the training. Local non-profit organizations will be invited to attend the training.

FAIR HOUSING ACT UPDATES

Housing Coordinator Fran Stanley present updates to the Fair Housing Act that apply to people with disabilities. All Federal buildings must be universally accessible. Multifamily developments must include a percentage of units that are accessible, which also applies to units constructed under MGL Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permits. The Fair Housing Act is a Civil Rights Law enforced by the Federal Department of Justice. The Building Commissioner enforces the 521 CMR Architectural Access Board Regulations at the local level.

PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT

Land Use Director Takashi Tada described the recent changes to the Massachusetts General Laws that will require Accessory Dwelling Units to be universally accessible when necessary. The amendment to the Accessory Dwelling Units provisions requires approval by Town Meeting. The Planning Board has an article on the warrant for the Fall Town Meeting

Member Tom Pistorino asked if the new requirements are required or optional. Mr. Tada said the Building Commissioner makes the determination on a case-by-case basis, depending upon the circumstances.

The motion was made by Alan Taylor, seconded by Lynne Pistorino, to support the proposed zoning amendment at Town Meeting. The motion passed with Judy Anderson, Robert Fleischer, Molly Foster, Lynne Pistorino, and Alan Taylor in favor, and Tom Pistorino abstaining.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator