

**COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025, 2:00 PM  
MINUTES**

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

Members present: Robert Fleischer, Judy Anderson, Molly Foster, Lynne Pistorino, Tom Pistorino, Barbara Rich, and Alan Taylor  
Others present: Housing Coordinator and DEI Committee Member Fran Stanley and DEI Committee Member Deirdre Slavin-Mitchell

**HEARING CONCERNS**

The Commission welcomed new member Barbara Rich. She expressed concerns about people who are hard of hearing and not being able to fully participate in public meetings and other events. She suggested looking into installing hearing loops in public buildings.

The Commission agreed that this is a good suggestion. ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said Russ Harris of the Groton Herald recently made a similar suggestion. She said she would follow up with Mr. Harris and try to schedule someone with expertise to meet with the Commission and provide more information.

Barbara Rich said using round tables rather than rectangular ones is better. She said some restaurants have “quiet” hours for people who have difficulty hearing.

Tom Pistorino asked about telephone call lines in emergency situations.

**COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS**

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette reported that someone called the Senior Center and complained about snow removal at a multifamily housing complex after a recent storm. She did not want to be identified. She was unable to remove snow from her vehicle herself, and the condominium association threatened to tow her car. The plowing contractors did remove the snow from her vehicle, but the condominium association objected because there could be liability issues.

The Commission said we should explore how to find volunteers to assist elderly and disabled people who may not be able to clear snow and do similar tasks themselves.

Deirdre Slavin Mitchell suggested the Boy Scouts as possible volunteers. Tom Pistorino said the Council on Aging has a list of volunteers who may be available to help. Judy Anderson suggested contacting Groton Neighbors as well.

**PUBLIC AWARENESS**

The Commission on Accessibility and DEI Committee members would like to collaborate to increase public awareness about people with disabilities. Perhaps, the Commission could distribute flyers and other educational information at Town Meetings and Elections.

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**MINUTES**

Tom Pistorino moved, and Alan Taylor seconded, to approve the minutes of December 17, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 2:00 PM in the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette  
ADA Coordinator