

COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2025, at 2:00 PM
MINUTES

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

Members present: Judy Anderson, Molly Foster, Lynne Pistorino, Tom Pistorino, and Barbara Rich

Members absent: Alan Taylor

Others present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette, Ashley Doucette, Groton Channel Program Director

HEARING CONCERNS

As a follow-up to the discussion at the meeting on April 9, 2025, the Committee met with Program Director of the Groton Channel, Ashley Doucette, to talk about close captioning programs broadcast on the Groton Channel. Ashley Doucette said they only provide close captions by request at the present time. She said the Cable Advisory Committee is applying for a grant to provide close captions for all in-house productions. The estimated cost is \$3700 per year. They hope there will be supplemental funding from the State. The Committee will put the request in its budget next year with the understanding that it may be a legal requirement in future years.

Member Tom Pistorino asked why close captions do not work on his television for Groton Channel programs and it works for other programs. He asked how many people watch the Groton Channel. Ashley Doucette said they can track how many people watch the Groton Channel and the Government Channel.

Chairman Fleischer said the Commission on Accessibility could support the request for funding in the budget with the Select Board and Finance Committee.

Member Barbara Rich said there are options such as using Zoom or Google Meets that work well with close captions.

Member Tom Pistorino asked if there is an extra charge if you use close captions. Ashley Doucette said, "no."

ADA POLICY

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said the Committee should review the Town's ADA Policy at a meeting in the fall to determine whether it should be updated.

CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

Member Pistorino said he talked to COA Director, Nicole Sarvela, about setting up a "volunteer program" to assist people who are older or have disabilities with tasks such as clearing snow off

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cars, yards work, etc. High school students may be able to earn community services credits by volunteering. There were questions about liability issues that may occur.

MINUTES

Judy Anderson moved to approve the minutes of April 9, 2025, Tom Pistorino seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at a date to be determined in September.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator