

COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026, at 2:00 PM
MINUTES

Chairman Robert Fleischer called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM at the Groton Senior Center.

Members present: Robert Fleischer, Judy Anderson, Lynne Pistorino, Tom Pistorino, Alan Taylor, and Lois Young

Others present: ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette and Design Engineer Megan Buczynski

PARK COMMISSION – CPC APPLICATION

Michelle Collette said the Park Commission asked if the Commission on Accessibility would write a letter of support to the Community Preservation Committee for the application for substantial improvements to the Cow Pond Brook Road Playing Fields. Megan Buczynski, design engineer, presented the plans to the Commission on Accessibility.

Megan Buczynski described the site including the existing playing fields, vernal pools, and wetlands. The property is subject to the jurisdiction of the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and Conservation Commission. The site was a former sand and gravel operation until the Town acquired the land. The baseball fields were constructed in 2010-2011. The existing access road will be relocated, and a new road will be constructed to provide access to the new parking areas. New playing fields and a playground will be constructed. Universal accessibility is an important part of the project. A walking pathway will be constructed around all the playing fields. The walking path will be 6 ft wide with a porous pavement surface. The parking areas will include a total of 295 spaces.

Member Tom Pistorino asked where the parking spaces for people with disabilities would be located. Megan Buczynski pointed out the three locations on the plan. She said the spaces will comply with all the ADA and Architectural Access Board standards. All the playing fields will have universally accessible routes.

Megan Buczynski said the lighting will be Dark Skies compliant. They are working with Tim Brothers of MIT on the lighting to be sure it does not interfere with the Haystack Observatory or with the Conservation Commission's concerns about endangered species.

Chairman Bob Fleischer asked about accessible restrooms. Megan Buczynski said it is not part of the proposed plan at this time, but an area is reserved for restrooms and a sewage disposal system to be constructed in the future. One accessible porta potty and two porta potties will be provided in each area as shown on the plan.

Megan Buczynski said the public safety departments have reviewed the plans, the Stormwater Advisory Committee has granted a Stormwater Management Permit, the Conservation Commission and Planning Board will hold public hearings on the proposed project. She stated that the Town will receive a grant of one million dollars from the National Park Service. Construction will begin on July 1, 2026, if the project is approved by Town Meeting.

The motion was made by Tom Pistorino, seconded by Judy Anderson, to support the Cow Pond Brook Playing Fields Project at Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN MEETING UPDATE

ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette said the Groton Channel and Town's IT Department will set up a viewing area in the front of the auditorium at Town Meeting for people who are hard of hearing or have low vision can sit and watch the screen with close captions. The Town will provide a sign language interpreter, if requested.

MINUTES

The motion was made by Judy Anderson, seconded by Tom Pistorino, to approve the minutes of November 19, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion was made by Judy Anderson, seconded by Alan Taylor, to approve the minutes of January 21, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 2 PM at the Groton Senior Center.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette, ADA Coordinator