

**Commission for Accessibility
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 18, 2021 5:00PM**

Via Zoom

In Attendance: Kate White, Tony Phillips, Maureen Culhane, Dave Choplinski, Cristine Santori, Don Ciota

Call to Order: 5:00 PM

Public Comment.

Update on Town Wide Assessment.

Tony has been in contact with David and Anna of IHCD, who have said the town wide study would be completed by October 27. A meeting regarding implementation and presentation of the study to the community will be held by Tony, the first selectman, and the superintendent of schools. Getting the public involved in this project is an integral part of its success. A presentation to the Board of Selectman was discussed as a way of initiating this process.

Follow up on Fair Housing Complaint

The Fair Housing Act is a civil rights law prohibiting discrimination in housing because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability. A variety of other federal civil rights laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, prohibit discrimination in housing and community development programs and activities. These civil rights laws include obligations such as taking steps to ensure appropriate auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities. Various federal fair housing and civil rights laws require HUD to affirmatively further the purposes of the Fair Housing Act.

The Commission is awaiting an update on the status of the complaint discussed in our previous meeting.

Further discussion centered on transportation within the town for persons with disabilities, which are extremely limited. Also reviewed were the surface areas in various playgrounds, which do not meet ADA requirements regarding access pathways, including severe slopes, and the failure in many cases of providing firm, stable, and slip resistant surfaces. Tony said that the ADA frowns upon wood-based materials, which need regular maintenance, which is not done.

Adjourn: 6:40 PM

Meeting Minutes prepared by Don Ciota