

**Commission for Accessibility
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 10, 2022**

Via Zoom

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

Call to Order: 5:07 PM

Public Comment.

A brief discussion occurred on how the ADA defines a disability. The simple answer is If a condition is chronic, it would be considered a disability according to the ADA. A broken leg, for example, would not be considered a disability under this definition.

Calls to Carol Juter requesting an update on her accessibility issue were not returned.

The minutes from the 12/13/2021 meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously.

Update on Town Wide Assessment.

The Institute for Human Centered Design has submitted the results of their playgrounds surveys. A town committee consisting of the First Selectman, Superintendent of Schools, Town ADA Coordinator and a representative of this Commission has met and will meet again to discuss these results. Since many of the schools have, more than one playground, a discussion will be occurring regarding a prioritization plan. Kate said surface areas in the paths of access and play areas were the most important first steps. She also referred to a playground project in Pennsylvania that was a showcase for accessibility. Tony mentioned that all the playgrounds are aging and it would have to be decided what equipment should or should not be retained, and that a pour in place surface area would be the ideal for compliance. The cost for such an installation is greater, but the savings on

maintenance costs over its lifespan would be significant. Christine mentioned the necessity for field trips to be accessible, a function of planning in advance. Kate mentioned a college-age author of a book on disability. The Commission asked for information about his work and expressed interest in inviting him to speak at a future meeting.

Election.

Don Ciota was re-elected Chairman and Maureen Culhane was elected as Secretary for two-year terms. The Motion for these was made by Dave, seconded by Kate and passed unanimously.

Adjourn: 6:01 PM

NOTE:

2022 Meeting Dates:

All dates are on a **Monday at 5:00PM** and will be held via Zoom until after the pandemic town deems it safe to meet in person.

	May 9	Sep. 12
Feb 7	Jun. 13	Oct. 17
Mar 7	Jul no meeting	Nov 7
Apr 11	Aug no meeting	Dec. 12

Meeting minutes prepared by Don Ciota