

**Commission for Accessibility
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 9, 2022**

Via Zoom

In Attendance: Tony Phillips, Maureen Culhane, Christine Santori, Don Ciota

Call to Order: 5:00 PM

Review Minutes from 04-11-2022

Public Comment

The Commission received a letter from Commissioner Kate White regarding the surface installed at the Barlow Mountain Elementary School (A copy of the letter and photographs are included at the end of these minutes.). According to Kate's letter, she spoke with Dennis DiPinto, Parks and Recreation Center Director, months ago about the proposed surface to be used and reports what was installed does not agree with what she believed was going to be used.

The following information is an overview for playground surfacing materials ADA-Approved and Non-Approved.

Section 240.1 of the 2010 Standards establishes play area requirements for children ages 2 and over and covers separate play areas within a site for specific age groups.

Section 1008.2.6 of the 2010 Standards provides technical requirements for accessible ground surfaces for play areas on accessible routes, clear floor or ground spaces, and turning spaces.

ASTM code standards identify ways to test and compare surfacing materials. They do not identify specific materials; rather, they establish standards that must be met if the materials are to be used in ADA-compliant playgrounds.

There are basically two options for ADA-compliant surfacing materials, loose fill materials or synthetic materials. The functionality of the different types of materials is the most significant

concern for a school or public entity that is installing or upgrading a playground. When choosing between types of surfacing materials there are three criteria that must be used to assess functionality in an ADA-approved play area.

1. What is the force of impact from a fall in a use zone, in and around playground equipment? The code requirements are referenced and established by ASTM Standard 1292-99 and ASTM F 1292-04.
2. Where are the accessible Routes located both in and around playground components and to and from playgrounds themselves? These requirements can be found in ASTM F 1487 and ASTM 1487-01
3. What are the surface characteristics of playground surfaces that allow for compaction, propulsion and turning capabilities for mobility devices on playground surfaces? These standards are addressed in ASTM F 1951-99.
4. ASTM F 1951-99 establishes a uniform means to measure the characteristics of surface systems in order to provide performance specifications to be used when selecting materials for use as an accessible surface under and around playground equipment.
5. Some of the surfacing materials do not meet the level of compliance for both impact attenuating surfaces and compaction for mobility devices that the standards address but the materials, when tested to the AMSE Standards; do meet the definition of the new regulations. Here are a few specifications and recommendations for the different types of surfacing materials:
6. **Loose Fill:**
 7. **Pea gravel, sand and wood chips (not engineered)**
 8. **Shredded Rubber and Engineered Wood Fiber**
9. **Fully Accessible Surfaces:**
 10. **Pour-in-Place, Rubber Mats/Tiles**
 11. **Artificial Grass with Rubber in-fill**

Tony Phillips, Town ADA Coordinator, commented ADA New England does not recommend Engineered Wood-Fiber due to the difficulty in maintaining it.

The Commission will follow up with the Recreation Department to inquire about the manufacturer's specification documents for the product in question. Commissioner Christine Santori said she would follow up on this if Commissioner Kate White is unable to do so.

Commissioner Maureen Culhane asked about proposed handicapped parking at the Rec Center and Tony said he would inquire.

Also discussed was the Town Budget Referendum to be held tomorrow, May 10, 2022. Item 3 includes an appropriation for ADA improvements for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022. Chairman Don Ciota mentioned

the significance of this measure as an informational announcement, but did not suggest how anyone participating in this meeting should vote.

Review of Town Accessibility Issues

A photograph of Town Hall has been selected for the lead page of the preface to the transition plan.

Town Handicapped Parking

Cars without handicapped parking permits parked in handicapped parking spaces has been a source of informal complaints over the years. Recently, the Commission was told of a day at Tiger Hollow parking area where all but one car in the 8-space handicapped parking area had no permits displayed, despite prominently displayed signs designating these spaces as such.

The Commission put together a compilation of data from various communities across the country telling how such issues are handled. From these selections the Commission recommends adopting a policy suggested by a CT DMV study, issued January 15, 2021, which is available on-line at <http://www.ct.gov/dmv/lib/dmv/handicappedparking.pdf>

Enforcement Sweeps

Several police chiefs suggested conducting three or four enforcement sweeps a year for violations of these laws. These sweeps also would serve to raise public awareness of the issue.

Media Campaign

Several chiefs suggested a public relations campaign, similar to the “Ticket or Click It” seat belt campaign, to raise public awareness of the problem, such a campaign could occur at the same time as the enforcement sweeps. In the case of Tiger Hollow, presentations could be made. For example, at school year orientations at the beginning of the year, and at pep rallies, school announcements, etc. Temporary cardboard signs could be placed adjacent to the existing Handicapped Parking Signs politely asking for everyone’s cooperation in no parking or standing in these spaces.

It may seem odd to be asking the public to stay out of these spaces if they are unoccupied, but this is a large issue to families who need these spaces, who may otherwise stay away rather than risk an unpleasant confrontation with drivers using the spaces as a mere convenience. And, it is both the law and the right thing to do.

Tony will ask to set up a meeting with the assistant superintendent, athletic director and the Commission to present this idea,

Kate's Letter:

Hello everyone,

Thank you for your email and the thoughts on our discussion next week.
cas

I want to share that although I did talk to the Rec center director months ago about the surfacing of the BMES prek and k playground- when I was assured that it was wood-fiber mulch- it indeed is not. I had a closer look yesterday. I hate to burn a bridge on this but it isn't even close to unmaintained wood fiber. The same exists at the Scotland K playground.

Adjourn

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.

		Sep. 12
Jun. 13		Oct. 17
Jul no meeting	Nov 7	
Aug no meeting	Dec. 12	

Minutes prepared by Don Ciota, Chairman