

**Commission for Accessibility
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 19, 2022**

Special Meeting Via Zoom

In Attendance: Tony Phillips, Christine Santori, Dave Choplinski, Michael Londrigan, Kate White, Don Ciota

Call to Order: 5:05 PM

Public Comment none

Accessibility to Voting for Persons with Disabilities.

Recently, the commission was informed a question arose about handicap accessibility to town voting. Two types of voting occur in the town, regular election days, and voting at town meetings. These two types of voting differ in that on regular election days voters arrive at polling places in town-owned facilities that are fully accessible and assistance is available if required. Also, an absentee voting option is available. This question was about voting at town meetings. Discussion centered on how accessibility could be insured at such meetings, which are held in different town-owned venues, such as an auditorium. These votes may occur after a discussion and the vote may be verbal, by a paper ballot, or perhaps by raising one's hand. Each of these selections may present an impediment to an individual and an alternate method of voting should be planned in advance to accommodate their vote. Likewise, if public comment is a part of the event, an appropriate accommodation must be provided if such an individual wishes to speak.

An issue discussed was public transportation to and from such a town meeting. A thought was to ask for a non-partisan initiative to organize a

town-bus loop to provide such transportation. This was followed by a suggestion for a similar effort to arrange for car-pooling.

A reminder is all such meetings should have hearing devices on hand for those that need such assistance. Town notices for these meeting should include a statement asking persons in need of special accommodation to notify the Registrar of Voters of their requirements in advance.

The town-wide assessment is being edited in anticipation of its presentation to the public.

Adjourn: 6:25

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:

October 17

November 7

December 12

Minutes prepared by Don Ciota, Chairman