

## Minutes

Commission for the Disabled — Mon., Mar. 20, 5:00 pm, Large Conference Room

Present: D. Ciota (chair), T. Phillips (Social Services), C. Calabro, C. Santori, E. Pearson, W. Kenyon

4 visitors — Ms. O'Connor, Ms. T. O'Connor, 2 others.

Convene: 5:04

D. Ciota asked visitors for their questions:

Ms. T O'Connor:

- i. Sidewalks are not in compliance with ADA
- ii. Accessible parking spaces are not properly cleared after snowfall
- iii. Can the HART bus come into town to help with travel to more southern towns?

Ms. O'Connor:

- i Are priorities proper for town expenditures — e.g. golf cart, ADA assessment of sewage plant?

1) Regarding snow removal from accessible parking spaces, T. Phillips pointed out the complexity of this issue, since some parking spaces are town-owned, some are privately-owned but the town enforces parking violations, etc, etc..

There was a discussion about some kind of legal penalty for business owners who fail to promptly remove snow from sidewalks and relevant accessible parking spaces. T. Phillips indicated that in the past there was some proposed legislation at the state level but it was never enacted. E. Pearson suggested that the Commission look into some kind of local ordinance. D. Ciota asked E. Pearson to develop a proposal for the Commission to review in the future regarding a local ordinance.

2). The minutes of the Feb. 13 meeting of this Commission were accepted as read.

3). Moving toward an ADA assessment: the town has included a \$75,000 line item in the proposed budget for next year, to cover its cost. This Commission is pushing forward to prepare an RFP for this assessment. We have a copy of the RFP sent out by Stamford, CT, and we will work with Ridgefield purchasing agent to adapt it to our case. This Commission would expect to act as Ridgefield's representative vis a vis potential vendors.

There may be some money available in the current fiscal year (which ends June 30) to spend on ADA improvements. T. Phillips has prepared a list of projects, and this Commission will huddle to propose priorities. Ms. T. O'Connor said that as far as sidewalks are concerned, they are most deficient in the Village.

4). It was proposed to routinely send copies of this Commission's minutes to the Ridgefield Press.

Adjourn: 6:20

W. Kenyon, secretary