

COMMISSION FOR THE DISABLED

Minutes - Monday April 17, 2017

5:00 P.M. Large Conference Room

Attendance: Present: D. Ciota, E. Pearson Commissioners
T. Phillips, ADA Coordinator,
Director of Social Services
Absent: C. Calabro, W. Kenyon, G. Romero, C.
Santori, S. Signorelli

Visitors: Sheila and Peter Hoyt

D. Ciota requested E. Pearson to take the minutes of the meeting.

Sheila Hoyt stated that she and her husband were interested in the Town's plans, as reported in the newspaper, regarding the ADA access of numerous Town facilities. She was particularly interested in the time frame for such plans.

T. Phillips explained that the Commission has identified about 93 or 94 Town facilities, buildings and programs that need to be reviewed regarding their compliance with the requirements of ADA.

D.Ciota explained the process that the Commission has been undergoing since its consultation with the City of Somerville, Massachusetts, whose ADA Coordinator, Betsy Allen, appeared and described her City's procedure at the Commission's December 12, 2016, meeting. This resulted in the preparation of a Transition Plan which was presented to the Board of Selectmen and resulted in a \$75,000 capitol budget item for the next fiscal year. Once this budget item has been fully approved the Town will prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) in order to seek competitive bids from outside contractors to complete an assessment of the identified Town facilities, buildings and programs.

T. Phillips explained that after the assessment is

completed then the Commission needs to establish a list of priorities regarding those facilities, buildings and programs that may need modifications to meet ADA requirements and then resubmit that list to the Board of Selectmen for the inclusion in future operating budgets.

D. Ciota discussed the Commission's past and current efforts to get the Ridgefield Building Department and Planning and Zoning Commission on board to ensure that all plans submitted by a developer is compliant with ADA despite their contentions that they are not expected to be an enforcement agent for the ADA.

T. Phillips submitted to the Commission the layout plans for a new ballfield being planned by Ridgefield's Little League, located on Route 7 adjacent to where Simpaug Turnpike joins Route 7. The plans were prepared by Doyle/Coffin, Architects and LADA, the Project Manager. He explained that the property is owned by the State as a result of eminent domain proceedings regarding past plans to develop Super 7, and that now the State has agreed to lease the property to the Town for \$1.00 a year and the Town has agreed to lease the property to Ridgefield's Little League for \$1.00. These plans were provided to T. Phillips by Adam Schnell, the Assistant Planner of the Planning & Zoning Commission. They will be discussed at the P & Z meeting on May 2nd. T. Phillips was not sure if there will be any opportunity for public comment at that meeting.

E. Pearson suggested that this would be the appropriate time for requesting the P & Z Commission to require the developers of the Ridgefield Little League ballfield to sign some type of statement acknowledging the full compliance with ADA requirements as proposed by him at the Commission's April meeting. (See Attachment A). T. Phillips was not sure that the P & Z Commission was very amenable to any such statement other than the one already provided to him by P & Z's recently resigned Planner, Joanne Meder (see Attachment B).

D. Ciota indicated that he was preparing a letter to the P & Z Commission regarding our interest in placing the

burden on the developer of a project as to ADA compliance. E. Pearson suggested that he should include a copy of the proposal submitted at our last meeting (See Attachment A) as part of any such letter.

Finally, on a totally new topic, E. Pearson submitted to the Commission his proposal to amend the Town's Ordinances regarding the prompt removal of snow and/or ice from sidewalks immediately after a snowstorm. (See Attachment C). A brief discussion followed and D. Ciota suggested that perhaps it should not be limited to Title II and Title III. It was agreed that it should at least read: "Title II and/or Title III."

	Submitted by E. Pearson,
Temporary Secretary	
	April 18, 2017

Attachments A, B & C