

Westport Commission on Disabilities
Minutes of July 23, 2018 Meeting
At Westport Town Hall Annex

1. Open Meeting: The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Chair Brian Gallagher. Also present were commission members Martin Costa, Anders Newcomer, Stanley Cornwall, and Kim Legendre.
2. Remote Participation: With no requests for remote participation, the chair passed over this item.
3. Minutes: Mr. Newcomer made a motion to approve the June 25, 2018 meeting as presented, seconded by Mr. Cornwall. The vote was unanimous.
4. Water Access Update: Mr. Gallagher noted the recent meeting with the Board of Selectmen on the Hix Bridge Landing accessibility project, and the board's unanimous support for the concept. Mr. Cornwall distributed a list of "Kayak Subcommittee" volunteers who will be working on the project, and noted they are waiting for the pro bono SITEC plan of the launch site. Mr. Cornwall suggested a "state-of-the-art" launch assistance project should be developed that could be used as a statewide model for such facilities. He indicated that the town administrator had suggested a CPA request as a likely funding source.
5. Mobility Mats Update: Mr. Gallagher reported contact with Westport Land Conservation Trust (WLCT) director Ross Moran and town counsel about the successful negotiation of an indemnity agreement between the town and WLCT concerning liability. He was unsure that the mats have been installed yet, and will follow-up with WLCT. He noted that recent conversations with WLCT included possible work on firming up the sandy parking area at the end of the road.
6. Greenwood Terrace: Mr. Gallagher reported several commission members visited Greenwood Terrace to view the automatic door opener installed in Building 2 with the donation of COD funds. A plaque dedicating the equipment in memory of founding commission member Richard Squire had been installed and was viewed by widow Ann Squire and son Ben Squire.
7. St. Vincent de Paul Property: Mr. Gallagher indicated that WLCT initial plans for the redevelopment of the property are on the trust website. He noted Mr. Moran has invited commission members to provide input on the development of accessibility improvements, and will attend the August meeting to collect commission input.

Mr. Cornwall suggested the site would be a good location for a gazebo for public concerts and community events, helping to create a "town green" atmosphere. He also described the Maine Progress Center, a successful sheltered workshop program for people with developmental disabilities, and indicated that one of the vacant buildings on the property might be a good location for a similar local program. He will discuss the idea further with Mr. Moran and the town administrator, and hoped that consultant Jeff Bull would take part in the discussions because of his background in that field.
8. Observations, Future Agenda Items: Mr. Gallagher reported that \$300 in handicapped parking fines have been collected by the town and transferred to the commission's account. Mr. Cornwall suggested it was time to start collecting photos and revive the informational brochure project; a group photo at the next meeting was planned. Mr. Costa noted he is going to a conference on disability issues in August, and will try to bring back brochures from other commissions.

9. Next Meeting: The commission's next meeting was set for 3:45 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 27.

10. A motion to adjourn the meeting came from Mr. Cornwall at 4:45 p.m., and was seconded by Ms. Legendre. The vote was unanimous.