

Westport Commission on Disabilities  
Minutes of Sept. 24, 2018 Meeting  
At Westport Town Hall Annex

1. Open Meeting: The meeting was called to order at 3:47 p.m. by Chair Brian Gallagher. Also present were commission members Martin Costa, Rose Rego, Ray Phenix; and commission consultant Jeff Bull of the Landing Commission. Absent were Stanley Cornwall, Anders Newcomer and Kim Legendre.

2. Remote Participation: With no requests for remote participation, the chair passed over this item.

3. Minutes: Mr. Phenix made a motion to approve the minutes of the Aug. 27, 2018 meeting as presented, seconded by Mr. Costa. The vote was unanimous, 4-0.

4. Water Access Update: Mr. Gallagher noted the most recent plans for the Hix Bridge Landing accessibility project come with a rough estimate of \$150,000, with funding to be sought from state grants or Community Preservation Act open space/recreation monies. An Oct. 1 deadline for the state grant program made that an unlikely funding source for the coming year. Mr. Bull indicated that the Landing Commission has not seen any plans for the launch assistance device prepared by Mr. Underwood or any subcommittee members. With Mr. Cornwall being absent, the commission will wait on more details on the plans before continuing discussions at the next meeting.

5. ADA Transition Plan: Mr. Gallagher reported that he, Mr. Cornwall, and Mr. Newcomer have been re-appointed to the town's ADA Transition Plan Committee, which should be considering an update of the 2011 Five Year Action Plan. The plan needs to cover accessibility and ADA compliance efforts at all municipal buildings, playgrounds and public landings, but apparently has never met to discuss an update, Mr. Gallagher indicated.

6. Parking Fines: Mr. Gallagher reported the commission's receipt of \$680 in parking fine revenues from the town for Fiscal Year 2018; the FY 2017 fine receipts were \$335.

7. Grant Awards Discussion: With more than \$6,000 currently in commission accounts, the chair solicited member suggestions for future grant awards for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Gallagher will talk to the Veterans Services Officer and Council on Aging director to see if there are needs in those town departments; Ms. Legendre will be asked to look into possible school-related projects needing funding.

8. Observations, Future Agenda Items: Mr. Gallagher reported that he contacted the manager of the Central Village branch of the Westport Federal Credit Union about a possible automatic door installation at that location; he was advised that the building is owned by Albert Lees, who will be contacted about the matter via letter. Mr. Phenix volunteered to seek out Mr. Lees and discuss the issue with him in person as well.

Mr. Costa reported on his recent attendance at a regional conference/seminar on ADA compliance issues, and will prepare a summary of topics of interest for members and/or website postings. He indicated that additional training sessions on accessibility issues are available, and he plans to attend some of those classes; information is available to other members if interested.

9. Next Meeting: The commission's next meeting was set for 3:45 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 22, 2018 at the Town Hall Annex.

10. A motion to adjourn the meeting came from Mr. Costa t 4:05 p.m., and was seconded by Ms. Legendre. The vote was unanimous, 4-0.