

Westport Commission on Disabilities  
Meeting of Feb. 26, 2018

Members present: Stanley Cornwall, Rose Rego, Raymond Phenix, and Brian Gallagher participating via telephone. Also present were consultant Jeff Bull and recording clerk Robert Barboza.

1. Call to Order: The meeting at the Town Hall Annex was called to order at 3:45 p.m.
2. Remote Participation: Ms. Rego made a motion to approve remote participation by the chairman, via telephone, seconded by Mr. Phenix; the vote was unanimous.
3. Minutes: Mr. Cornwall read the minutes of the Jan. 29, 2018 meeting. A motion to approve them as read was made by Mr. Phenix, seconded by Ms. Rego; the vote was unanimous (4-0).
4. Head of Westport: An update on the Head of Westport town landing was provided by Mr. Bull, a member of the Landing Commission. He indicated that a recent meeting with the Landing Commission's consulting engineer resulted in some further modifications of landing improvement plans. The plans include accessibility accommodations including designated parking spots for people with disabilities; a paved pathway to the slipway and a handicapped accessible portable bathroom; and a wheelchair accessible picnic table and sitting area.
5. After some discussion of the merits of appointing a subcommittee to work with the Landing Commission on future improvements to town landings, Mr. Cornwall and Ms. Rego were designated as COD delegates to the subcommittee.
6. Status of Route 6 post office: Mr. Gallagher indicated a continued lack of success contacting the owners of the State Road post office to discuss possible accessibility improvements. He reported filing a Freedom of Information request with federal officials to get the name and contact information for the facilities manager for this region.
7. Greenwood Terrace Update: It was reported that the installation of the automatic door has been completed, and a thank you letter received from the Westport Housing Authority for the COD donation towards the cost. It was decided that a plaque be created to dedicate the equipment to former COD member Richard Squire.
8. New Members: Mr. Cornwall reported that he has been unsuccessful in contacting member prospect Ronald Knapp, who has expressed some interest in joining the commission.
9. New Business, Ongoing Issues: Ms. Rego indicated she continues to observe numerous incidents of drivers illegally parking in restricted spots at the State Road post office. Mr. Gallagher reported on his conversations related to the installation of the mobi-mats at Beach Avenue, with the Highway Department indicating that the town conservation agent must approve the use of the mats, and Highway Department workers cannot perform the mat installations. The Westport Land Conservation Trust (WLCT) must also approve the installation, as they have custody of the pathway to the beach; Mr. Cornwall said he would contact the WLCT director about the matter. Mr. Bull indicated he was willing to store the mats at his home in the off season.
10. Next Meeting: It was confirmed that the next meeting of the commission will be at 3:45 p.m. on Monday, March 26 at the Town Hall Annex.
11. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Mr. Cornwall suggested that the commission investigate the possibility of advocating for accessibility improvements at the state boat ramp at Westport Harbor. Mr. Bull noted that the town has no jurisdiction over the state facility; Mr. Cornwall said he would try to contact someone at the state Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) or Fisheries & Wildlife to discuss issues related to the site.
12. A motion to adjourn the meeting came from Mr. Gallagher at 4:20 p.m.; Ms. Rego seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.