

Westport Commission on Disability  
Minutes of June 26, 2017 Meeting

Members present: Chair Brian Gallagher, Stanley Cornwall, Raymond Phenix, Rose Rego, Anders Newcomer, and Martin Costa. Also present: Commission consultant Jeff Bull, recording clerk Robert Barboza.

The meeting was called to order at 3:47 p.m. by Mr. Gallagher, who thanked Mr. Cornwall for his dedicated service as commission chair for the last several years. There was no need for a vote on remote participation by members, so that agenda item was passed over. Mr. Newcomer made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 22, 2017 meeting as presented, second by Mr. Costa; the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Gallagher reviewed the status of commission grants issued to date, noting the disbursement of funds for veterans affairs has been completed. Mr. Costa was asked to provide an update on the automatic door opener proposed for installation at a Westport Housing Authority building. He reported on a recent meeting with the authority, during which they expressed their appreciation for the proposed offer of financial assistance from the commission for this project; the authority indicated their staff could handle the installation. Mr. Cornwall made a motion to provide a grant of up to \$2,000 for the effort, seconded by Mr. Newcomer; the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Bull reported no updates on the parking plan proposed for the town landing at the Head of Westport. He suggested that the COD consider some means of providing direct access to the water for people with disabilities seeking to use canoes or kayaks on the river, an item mentioned in the 2011 ADA compliance review summary provided to the town some years ago. He also urged that the COD advocate with the Landing Commission for such access. Mr. Bull also noted that the Landing Commission is planning some renovations to the parking area at the Adamsville Road town landing, with handicapped-accessible parking to be included in the plans. He indicated there are five deeded public landings in town, and there was some discussion of whether the town has deeded rights to the former bridge site beside the Paquachuck Inn at Westport Point.

Mr. Gallagher advised the commission that he will be taking over the effort to convince the owner of the post office on state road that some accessibility improvements are needed there. There was no update on the ADA executive summary committee; no meetings have been called by town officials.

Under new business, Mr. Bull reported that Eagle Scout Noah Gagnon's proposed project to create a veterans memorial at the Head of Westport has been abandoned; the Scout's request for financial assistance was passed over without action. Mr. Costa was designated as the commission's delegate to an upcoming conference in Barnstable on disability issues. Mr. Gallagher presented an informational handout on the Mass Relay program to members, and suggested it also be posted on the COD page on the town website. Mr. Cornwall made a motion to pay the clerk's invoice in the amount of \$132.60, seconded by Mr. Phenix; the vote was unanimous.

On the matter of summer meeting dates, there was general agreement not to meet during July and August unless pressing business arises. The next scheduled meeting date will be Monday, Sept. 25 at a time to be determined. As for future agenda items, Mr. Newcomer reported that there are still ongoing issues at Westport Point with parked cars and trash barrels blocking sidewalks; he made a direct appeal to cable television viewers of the meeting to stop both practices. A motion to adjourn the meeting came at 4:45 p.m. from Mr. Newcomer, seconded by Mr. Cornwall, and was unanimously approved.