



Commission for Accessibility Meeting Minutes September 14, 2026

N.B. This was an in-person meeting which took place at town hall in the downstairs small conference room.

5:10 PM CALL TO ORDER

In Attendance: Debbie Prieger, Divya Dorairrajan, Christine Santori, Tony Phillips, Don Ciota.

Members were welcomed back from the summer recess.

N.B. There was one motion made during this session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 11, 2026

MOTION: To approve minutes from June 8, 2026.
Motion made by Debbie, second by Divya
Approved Unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT
NONE.

**Commission for Accessibility
Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut**

5:15 PM Personal Accessibility Observations, Summer 2026

At the end of the June meeting members of the Commission were asked to observe ADA-type compliance issues in their summer travels. Each member related such personal observations both locally and in their travels. Divya shared her experience obtained in her travel to India. Among those she related were public transportation. She told us public bus and rail usage is widely used there and described how buses were designed with roll-on wheelchair access. Similar access to rail transportation was also provided. Other members also shared their own experiences.

The purpose was to strengthen observation skills in everyday situations. ADA compliance and noncompliance are often noticed only by individuals who need these accommodations. One objective of the Commission is to bring these issues to the public's attention by discussing the importance of compliance and encouraging people to recognize accessibility concerns in their daily lives.

Facts point to a significant segment of the population which benefit from these accommodations. In addition to persons with various disabilities including those of mobility, there is the societal aging population who may or may not meet the threshold of ADA but can benefit from its requirements. Add to

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this the parents with baby carriages and the non-disabled who have a temporary injury.

**5:45 PM Commission Evaluation of Town Departments
Regulatory Compliance.**

Tony told the Commission he will be writing to various town departments about specific observations regarding to ADA compliance. He suggested contacting Phil Kearns, chairman of Parks and Rec for discussions about ADA awareness. In the past P&R had a board member who concentrated on these issues and perhaps another has been assigned. Don has agreed to make this enquiry.

A specific issue of adult changing stations was brought up during the meeting. Tony told us the ADA does not require such an accommodation. Divya asked how to address this as an ADA issue. Don addressed this issue by stating it is the U.S. Public Access Board, a federal agency, that designs and develops accessibility guidelines and standards, which are then adopted by ADA. Don will explore how to contact this Board to ask whether this issue has been a topic for its consideration.

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6:15 PM ADJOURN

Minutes by Don Ciota, Chairman

2026 Meeting Dates:

Oct 19

Nov 9

Dec 7