

Commission for Accessibility

Meeting Agenda

January 11, 2020 5:00PM

Via Zoom (access information to follow)

5:00 PM Call to Order

Public Comment

Reading of the Minutes from December 14

Membership

Update on Town Wide Assessment

Commission for Accessibility

2021 Meeting Dates

Jan 11

Feb 8

Mar 8

Apr 12

May 17

Jun 14

Jul. no meeting

Aug no meeting

Sep 20

Oct 18

Nov 8

Dec 13

Commission for Accessibility Meetings are held on Mondays at 5 PM and are open to the public. During the Covid crisis meetings occur via Zoom. Connection information may be found on the town website in the days prior to the meeting. At such time in-person meetings may resume, they will be held at town hall in the larger conference room on these dates and time.

Don Ciota, Chairman
Commission for Accessibility

Ridgefield Commission for Accessibility

400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

PRESS RELEASE

December 16, 2020

Seeking New Members

The Ridgefield Commission for Accessibility is seeking new members who have an interest in helping to advocate policies committed to expanding opportunity and enhancing experience for people of all ages, abilities and cultures. The Commission meets once a month, usually the second Monday of each month, lately via Zoom due to the Covid pandemic. If providing advocacy for those who may not be able to do so for themselves sounds like a cause worth volunteering your time, please contact me via email or the town ADA Coordinator, Tony Philips at the town social services office.

Don Ciota, Chairman
Commission for Accessibility
donciota@aol.com

Ridgefield Commission for Accessibility

400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

PRESS RELEASE

December 15, 2020

The Town of Ridgefield has been undergoing a town-wide assessment as required by the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA), which is being conducted by the Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD). Now in its final stages, it will soon be completed resulting in a document known as a *transition list*, which lists any shortcomings that need to be addressed. The plan is then to prioritize remedial solutions and commence action.

This project has been a priority for the Commission for Accessibility (formerly Commission for the Disabled) for many years. The Board of Selectman (BOS) has been enthusiastic in responsive to this project from the beginning and as a far-sighted measure included the schools in this project.

The purpose of the study is to identify barriers to accessibility in town and school facilities and programs and record them on the transition list. The first step will be to prioritize the items on the list in a critical order for remediation. By the time the list is published, a number of the items may have already been fixed and can be marked as such. Other items may be able to be resolved by in-house maintenance that can be scheduled in the normal course of town business. Those items left may require outside contractors, which will require a going through a bidding and budgetary process.

Since the ADA recognizes it may not be possible to address all these items immediately, it allows the town to set a timetable for compliance. All items must be given an estimated date for completion. The ADA also takes into consideration that towns may have plans to replace a facility within a certain time frame that

will satisfy the requirements of this Act provided efforts to remove barriers continue in the meantime.

Ridgefield Commission for Accessibility

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PRESS RELEASE

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For the information of the public, the ADA is a complaint- based law enforced by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). Sometimes, it seems this is merely a zoning or building code regulation, but it is actually a *civil rights law*. It has always been the opinion of the Commission the town is in fundamental compliance and has been pro-active in its efforts to promote accessibility.

Please forward any comments or questions to the Commission at town hall in care of the ADA Coordinator.

Prepared by: Don Ciota, Chairman
Ridgefield Commission for Accessibility