

Commission for Accessibility

Meeting Agenda

Monday, February 13, 2023 5:00PM

Via Zoom (access information below). Should someone need a special accommodation in order to participate in this meeting please contact Karen Gaudian at 203 807-4524.

Policy: Commission for Accessibility meetings will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and all participants are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and treat all those present with respect, empathy and civility.

Don Ciota is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Ridgefield Commission for Accessibility

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89849746946?pwd=am1LeU11REdmU1U1N2IBakJ2QWU3UT09>

Meeting ID: 898 4974 6946

Passcode: 924263

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 898 4974 6946
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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89849746946>

5:00 PM. Call to Order

Public Comment

Handicapped Parking: DOJ Enforcement and Community
Cooperation/Education. (see below)

Handicapped Parking Spaces: DOJ Enforcement and Community Cooperation/Education.

1) It is the belief of the Commission the Ridgefield Town Parking Authority does not enforce Handicapped Parking regulations on Title III Public Access (private) properties. The Authority should be enforcing such regulations on Title II properties (Town properties.).

2) Police or Law Enforcement Agency can enforce these regulations on Title II properties.

3) A title III property owner can be helpful if they were to advise customers, clients, visitors, employees, delivery personnel, etc. to observe Handicapped Parking Regulations. They should monitor these spaces throughout the day.

4) The Commission has spoken to the Police in the past about having perhaps 4-5 volunteers use an app to collect data on illegal parking

5) Designated Handicapped Parking spaces are mandated both ADA and local building regulations. If a space is not adequately striped or does not have adequate signage, the town or private property owner can be notified and asked to correct the defect. This can be done through the Police, Building Department, Commission for Accessibility, or to the DOJ.

6) Public Shaming has been used whereby a photograph is taken and posted publicly. Here, as in other situations, the Police discourage confronting people and advise calling the police.

7) If the store owner isn't helpful, you can also tell them that since you can't ever park there, you will not be returning; perhaps you have other friends who would join you in the exodus? Let your money do the talking.

8) Besides the issue of illegal parking in designated spots, an entity subject to the ADA may offer to provide for accessibility by bringing your purchases out to your car. But, this in itself, may not be adequate or desired by a person with a mobility disability, for example.

9) Write some news or social media posts educating people. Maybe you will catch a few eyeballs that way?

Town of Greenwich Agrees to Increase Accessibility at Marina to Comply with Americans with Disabilities Act

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Share

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Connecticut

Vanessa Roberts Avery, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that the U.S. Attorney's Office has reached a settlement agreement with the Town of Greenwich to resolve allegations that a Greenwich marina was not operating in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA").

The settlement agreement resolves an ADA complaint filed by an individual with disabilities alleging that Greenwich's Byram Marina has no designated accessible boat slips and no accessible routes to the boat slips. As a result, the marina is not accessible to individuals with **physical** disabilities. Greenwich is in the process of making significant improvements to the Byram Marina, as required by the settlement agreement, including improving the accessibility of designated boat slips, and the routes to those slips, as well as other accommodations designed to increase accessibility.

Under federal law, public entities are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of disability. The ADA authorizes the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate complaints and undertake periodic reviews of compliance of covered entities. The Justice Department is also authorized to commence a civil lawsuit in federal court in any case that involves a pattern or practice of discrimination or that raises issues of general public importance, and to seek injunctive relief, monetary damages, and civil penalties.

“Among the most important protections provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act are those ensuring individuals with disabilities have access to public services, including recreational activities such as boating,” stated U.S. Attorney Avery. “Our Office is committed to enforcing the ADA, which requires public entities, including municipalities, to provide access to individuals with disabilities. We greatly appreciate the willingness of the Town of Greenwich and its leaders to work with our office collaboratively to increase the accessibility and usability of Greenwich’s facilities.”

Any member of the public who wishes to file a complaint alleging that a public entity or place of public accommodation in Connecticut is not accessible to persons with disabilities may contact the U.S. Attorney’s Office at 203-821-3700.

Additional information about the ADA can be found at www.ada.gov, or by calling the Justice Department’s toll-free information line at (800) 514-0301 and (800) 514-0383 (TTY). More information about the Civil Rights Division and the laws it enforces is available at www.justice.gov/crt.

This matter was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney William M. Brown, Jr. of the District of Connecticut in coordination with the Disability Rights Section of the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division.

Updated January 10, 2023

Update on the Town of Ridgefield Transition Plan Presentation.

Discussion about recommendations for the update of the Town Charter.

Adjourn

2023 Meeting Dates: (Mondays at 5:00PM). Via Zoom.

Mar. 14

Apr. 10

Jul. --

Oct. 16

May 8

Aug. --

Nov. 13

Jun. 12

Sep. 11

Dec. 11