

## Hull Commission on Disability- Meeting Minutes

Date: January 22, 2009

Location: Anne Scully Senior Center

Time: 4:00 p.m.

### Attendees:

Bruce Wood, Vice Chair	(BW)	Hull Commission on Disabilities (COD)
Peter Lombardo	(PL)	Hull Commission on Disabilities
Joan Humphreys	(JH)	Hull Commission on Disabilities
Bob Fultz	(BF)	Hull Planning Director
David Twombly	(DT)	Director of Operations, HSD
Chris Palmes	(CP)	Austin Design (AD)
Chris Farley	(CF)	Austin Design (AD)

Meeting called to order by Bruce Wood, acting chair, COD.

Purpose of meeting: Review and comment on the “Draft Final Report” of the Self Evaluation Plan being prepared by the Consultant, Austin Design.

CF provided an overview of the final report and opened it to general discussion and noted that the Town must be in full compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which was enacted to provide equal access to all activities, services and programs offered by “public entities”.

DT suggested modifications to some of the language contained in the final report. DT observed that there is significant cost associated with some of the recommendations at the three schools. The most significant item is the issue of compliance at the main entrance to the Jacobs School. It was suggested by BW that DT request review and comment from the design architect as all (3) Hull schools have been significantly renovated over the last ten years.

There was much discussion relative to how best to present cost estimates for implementing recommendations. There are unknown contingencies and there may be “soft costs” for professional fees and expenses for some of the projects.

CP recommended the use of the “ADA Action Guide” for guidance in implementation of the recommendations.

Program Access may sometimes be provided when structural changes represent a “hardship” to the Town. This is better spelled out in the “ADA Title II Highlights” which was presented and will be attached to the Final Report. Program access may be appropriate for public activities currently being provided at the DPW Garage, Municipal Light Plant, A Street Fire Station and the Sewer Treatment Plant, as recommended by the Consultant. There are likely to be unknown costs associated with program access.

BW indicated that , in his opinion, all department heads must be made completely aware of their obligations under the ADA and that they should be provided with all written data, necessary for this, including a copy of the final report.

CP indicated that the recommendations contained in this report do not need to be accomplished immediately but the process should be started. Awareness from all sub entities within the town government, including volunteer committees is critical to the success of this program.

AD will incorporate modifications as agreed and will add MAAB (Massachusetts Architectural Access Board) and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) reference numbers for specific requirements, as appropriate.

AD plans to complete the report and submit it to the Town in hard copy and electronic form by January 30, 2009. Electronic version should be on CDs.

Submitted by Bruce R Wood, Vice Chair, Hull Commission on Disabilities