



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD
(508) 839-5335 • FAX (508) 839-4602
www.grafton-ma.gov

2020 REPORT OF THE GRAFTON DISABILITY COMMISSION

The Grafton Disability Commission, consisting of seven (7) members met numerous times during 2020. During its meetings, the Commission's activities included:

- Ongoing review and operationalization of Grafton's June 2019 municipal (non-school) ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan in order to develop a long-term strategic plan. This document is located on the Disability Commission's web page on Grafton's web site.
- Created a subcommittee consisting of Catherine Dore and Select Board Rep, Mathew Often to further breakdown the ADA Self-Evaluation. A special thanks to Mr. Often for placing this lengthy document into Excel format to better dissect its many segments and for tracking progress.
- Endorsed Grafton Recreation Department's request (Jen Andersen, Director) for funding for accessible routes and surfacing at six playground and park areas: Perry Hill Park, Airport Park, Norcross Park, Riverview Park, Ferry Street Park, and Silver Lake Beach. The necessary funding of \$210,000 was secured by a vote of Town Meeting on November 7, 2020 (outdoor meeting on the football field) using Community Preservation Act funds. This followed the required review and endorsement by Grafton's Community

Preservation Committee. The mild weather allowed these improvements to commence and progress late into 2020.

- Endorsed Municipal ADA Improvement Grant applications which were offered through the MA Office on Disability. Although Grafton was not selected, we look forward to grant opportunities during FY 2022.

Those endorsements were:

- Recreation Department project grant request by Jen Andersen, Director of \$204,652 for accessible routes and surfacing at various parks and playgrounds. In the end, this project was otherwise funded, as noted above.
 - Grafton Public Schools' planning grant request by Superintendent, Dr. Jay Cummings of \$35,000 for an ADA Self-Evaluation of its internal and external facilities.
 - Grafton Public Schools' project grant request by Superintendent, Dr. Jay Cummings) of \$280,000 for playground improvements at S. Grafton Elementary School.
- Discussed State and Federal guidance regarding COVID-19 and distance learning, service animals and public accommodations, and accessible venues for Grafton Celebrates the Holidays.
 - Researched closed captioning options for our meetings. We look forward to this occurring in early 2021.

- Monitored the status and progress regarding various citizen complaints which were directed to Grafton's ADA Coordinator, Bob Berger and/or the MA Architectural Access Board.

Our January and February meetings were videotaped by Grafton Community Television (GCTV) for later viewing on our local community access TV channels and on-line via link from GCTV's web page. Due to Novel Coronavirus / COVID-19 restrictions, our meetings for the remainder of 2020 were held via Zoom teleconferencing and taped for later TV viewing. We extend our thanks to Bob DeToma and Jack Kelley at GCTV for their time and technical assistance.

Also of great assistance to the Commission in 2020 were Joann Duncan and Cindy Ide in the Select Board / Town Administrator's office, Kandy Lavalley (Town Clerk), Paul Cook (Assistant Town Clerk), and their Administrative Assistant, Jayne Zwicker. Our Building Inspector / ADA Coordinator, Bob Berger provided input on many matters that came before the Commission, as did Jeffrey Dougan, Assistant Director of Community Services at MA Office on Disability.

Grafton's Recreation Director, Jen Andersen deserves special recognition and appreciation for her countless hours in overseeing many initiatives toward making our playgrounds, parks, and recreation activities more accessible.

We also extend our thanks to Bob Perla for his service on the Commission during 2020, and to Donna Stock who served as the Select Board's representative during the first half of the year.

We look forward to a productive 2021 in helping create a more informed and accessible Grafton.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger R. Trahan, Jr., Chair
Daryl Rynning, Vice Chair
Melissa Lackey, Clerk
Mathew Often, Select Board Rep
Kristie Proctor
Catherine Dore
Jennifer Pearson