**April 26, 2017 1pm**

**Town Hall Access Committee Meeting**

with

Jeffrey L. Dougan

Assistant Director for Community Services

Comm of Mass. Exec. Dept.

Office on Disability

**Meeting Minutes**

 **1. Meeting was convened at 1pm in lower town hall.**

 -Committee Members present: Anderson, Dengler, Nilson, Selden, J. Woolsey.

 Also attending:

Nancy Allen, Steve Boudreau, Tom Cahill, Hilary Loring, Paul McCarthy.

**2. Mr. Dougan provided information and responded to questions**

-Regarding compliance, he said that access improvements totaling more than

100k or 30% of the building value would trigger full compliance requirements.

So, re town hall bldg., repairs or improvements could not total more

than @130k including all work within three year time frame /look back.

He said that state code regs are more stringent than federal. Variances

from nine member Architectural Access Board can be applied for and that

before undertaking any access planning, a discussion with Tom Hopkins, Exec.

Director of AAB, or with compliance officer would be beneficial to help

determine scope of work required/variances needed.

He said that variances are frequently made in cases of historic buildings.

-Regarding planning and construction grants, he explained that applications have

to be made by June 30 with invoice for work. He said that relatively few apps have

been made to date and that awards for work in our case might total 40-50 k.

The 2018 grant cycle will begin on July 1, 2017.

-Regarding eligibility, he said that both a town Self Evaluation and

commitment to Community Compact are required. The CC is designed to

encourage towns to commit to best practices in a wide variety of areas and

that a minimum 3 must be checked off. The town may already comply with

a number of these and that making accessibility improvements would be one

such item. He said that a town funding “match” improves chances of receiving

a grant.

**-**Regarding parking, he said that there would have to be a fully compliant

van size designated space.

-Jana recounted her experience in Concord Ma. and said that Community

Compact requirements are really quite useful and not terribly onerous.

She made the point that they help towns aim in the right direction.

-Steve Boudreau said that he believes the town does have a

Self Evaluation. He did not know how old it was nor how much updating

might be needed. He said he would try to locate it . He also commented that

requests for variances can be problematic since they sometimes trigger

“directives” which may imply more compliances.

**3. Adjournment**

**-** Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

**-**