

# THE PEMBROKE ALL-ACCESS NEWSLETTER

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## Pembroke Commission on Disabilities News

The Commission on Disabilities is working on several projects to improve the lives of people with a disability in the Town of Pembroke. We're pleased to announce that the Town of Pembroke received a \$100,000 earmark to make ADA improvements at Herring Run Park. Additionally, the Community Preservation Coalition awarded \$10,000 to conduct a study at Town Landing to produce conceptual renderings of a new ADA compliant guard house with an ADA compliant restroom. The project also includes an Open Recreation Access Route (ORAR) that leads from the park's entrance to the play area and another ORAR leading perpendicular to the edge of the wall that meets the water. An ADA ramp will extend from the top of the wall to an ADA compliant float dock to provide a person with a disability access to the water. The Veterans Memorial Park project seeks to add ADA walkways that will allow a person with a disability to access all areas within the park. Additionally, the Commission is advocating for the inclusion of ADA parking spaces at this site and an ADA compliant gazebo for events held within the park. Lastly, we're excited to release the addition of an ADA compliant ramp at the GAR Hall located at 140 Center Street. The ramp will provide a person with a disability access into the building for the first time since it was constructed in 1888. The Pembroke Commission on Disabilities is working collaboratively with the ADA Coordinator to write a proposal to the MOD for the Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvement Grant Program. If awarded we plan to execute on our 2020 ADA projects in our 5-

## Message from the Chairman

Thank you for tuning into the first issue of our quarterly newsletter. I'm proud to say that on January 29, 2019 the Commission on Disabilities became an active board. Our mission is to promote equality and advocate for people with disabilities in the Town of Pembroke. In our first two meetings we reorganized and set the stage for the future of our board. We look forward to servicing our community by supporting our residents with a disability and partnering with other boards and organizations to achieve our goals. I would like to take this time to thank you for reading our first newsletter and invite you to our future meetings and events. If you have a disability, know someone with a disability or have an interest in our mission and goals as a board and want to participate please reach out to us by phone, email or come visit us during our business hours. We look forward to hearing from you.





## Medical Equipment Program

The Commission on Disabilities accepts donated used/new medical equipment in our office located at 128 Center Street in Pembroke, Massachusetts. This equipment is stored in our inventory and given to people free of charge that are in need of equipment but don't have the financial resources to obtain it. The program was established by Mr. Weinreich in 2009 to help people in unfortunate situations achieve their needs. Our inventory currently contains wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, shower chairs and benches. There are some items that can't be taken, such as commodes, diabetic supplies and COPD supplies. The Commission on Disabilities asks that all donations be clean and in good working condition. No donations will be taken if they having missing parts and/or if they are not functional. If you're in need of a piece of equipment and we don't currently have it in our inventory we are here to help you track it down. For example, several years ago a gentleman called our office searching for an accessible mini-van. Mr. Weinreich was able to obtain a fully accessible mini-van for his family free of charge. Sometimes the impossible becomes reality with teamwork. If you have any questions relating to our medical equipment program feel free to reach our office by email at [disabilities@townofpembrokmass.org](mailto:disabilities@townofpembrokmass.org) or by phone at 781-293-9484.

## Mass Office on Disability News

The Massachusetts Office on Disabilities works to ensure the full and equal participation of all people with disabilities in all aspects of life by working to advance legal rights, maximum opportunities, supportive services, accommodations and accessibility in a manner that fosters dignity and self-determination. State Executive Order 526 designates MOD as the ADA coordinating agency for the executive branch of the state government in Massachusetts. They're also the administrator of the state's Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act Improvement Grant Program, which was introduced in May of fiscal year 2017. According to MOD, these grants support capital improvements dedicated to improving access for people with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth. Their office distributes project and planning grants up to \$250,000 to cities and towns to improve access. MOD received \$1,000,000 in 2017 and 2018 to support this program. The agency's Grant Selection Committee approved \$995,000 in awards and disbursed \$927,730 to cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth.





## Message from the ADA Coordinator

During the summer months of 2018 Weston & Sampson was contracted by the Town of Pembroke to conduct an evaluation of 12 town owned facilities for ADA compliance. The study revealed several barriers that limit accessibility for a person with a disability. With the exception of the library all of the buildings evaluated were constructed prior to the introduction of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. It's important to note the common misconception that these sites are "grandfathered" because ADA does not protect existing facilities. However, removing architectural and communication barriers should be "readily achievable" meaning they are easily accomplished and can be carried out without much difficulty or expense. Most of the facilities in the Town of Pembroke require a tremendous amount of work to achieve full ADA compliance.



The first step was to identify all existing ADA barriers throughout the town's buildings, parks and services and determine short-term and long term improvements to correct these issues. The Commission on Disabilities and I are currently in the process of establishing a 5-year and 10-year priority plan to bring these facilities to ADA compliance. The plan begins with high traffic sites or sites that have been identified as high priority. The Massachusetts Office on Disability introduced the Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvement Grant Program to support capital improvements specifically dedicated to improving access for persons with disabilities cities and towns throughout the commonwealth. A proposal is currently under development to aid our 2020 priorities, which include improvements at Town Landing and Town Hall. Please visit the Commission on Disabilities web page for more information related to these two projects. Another item on our agenda between now and FY20 is a curb ramp schedule to list all deficient or missing curb ramps in the town, a self-evaluation to describe policies and practices that affect physical or communication access to programs, services or activities, a public participation plan and a system for periodic reviews and updates. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me by email at [bgulnick@townofpembroke.mass.gov](mailto:bgulnick@townofpembroke.mass.gov) or by phone at 781-709-1416.



## About our members

The Commission on Disabilities is made up of 7 members with a wide range of background, knowledge, experience and education. Each member brings a unique perspective to the table and affords the Town of Pembroke with valuable knowledge and recommendations on how to move forward with improving the town for people with a disability.

### Members include:

### Term Expires:

Tom Weinreich, Chairman,	2021
Daniel Robinson, Co Chairman,	2020
Darren MacDonald, Secretary,	2019
Andrew Freeman, Member,	2020
Angela Sestito, Member,	2020
Michelle O'Connor, Member, and	2021
Anthony Nunes, Member	2019
Brandon Gulnick, ADA Coordinator	Appointed

## Past & Future Meetings

January 29, 2019 at 7:00PM  
Conference Room – 100 Center Street

February 28, 2019 at 6:00PM  
Conference Room – 100 Center Street

March 12, 2019 at 7:00PM  
Conference Room – 100 Center Street

April 9, 2019 at 7:15PM  
Conference Room – 100 Center Street

May 9, 2019 at 06:30PM  
Conference Room – 100 Center Street

June 4, 2019 at 06:30PM  
Conference Room – 100 Center Street

## Contact information

### Pembroke Commission on Disabilities

Phone: (781) 293 – 9484

Email: [disabilities@townofpembrokemass.org](mailto:disabilities@townofpembrokemass.org)

Address: 128 Center Street, Pembroke, MA 02359

### Council on Aging

Phone: (781) 294 – 8220

Email: [sshea2@townofpembrokemass.org](mailto:sshea2@townofpembrokemass.org)

Address: 144 Center Street, Pembroke, MA 02359

### Pembroke ADA Coordinator

Phone: (781) 709 – 1416

Email: [bgulnick@townofpembrokemass.org](mailto:bgulnick@townofpembrokemass.org)

Address: 100 Center Street, Pembroke, MA 02359

### Massachusetts Office on Disability

Phone: (617) 727 – 7440

Email: [Kathy.Roach@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:Kathy.Roach@massmail.state.ma.us)

Address: 1 Ashburton Place, Room 1305, Boston, MA 02108

## Helpful Resources

Pembroke Commission on Disabilities

<https://www.pembroke-ma.gov/commission-disabilities>

Pembroke Council on Aging

<https://www.pembroke-ma.gov/council-aging-1>

Massachusetts Office on Disability

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-on-disability>

Special Needs & Accessible Living

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/special-needs-accessible-living>

Accessible Transportation

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/accessible-transportation>

Affordable Housing

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/affordable-housing>