

## **DISABILITIES COMMISSION**

### **Annual Report – 2008**

Deborah Dorsey

Adeline Naiman

Anita Scheipers, Ex Officio

Jim Spindler

Rob Loud, Chair

The mission of the Lincoln Disabilities Commission is to ensure that Lincoln is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, public and commercial accommodations, transportation and telecommunications. An individual with a disability is defined by the ADA as one who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

The Commission works to assist in bringing about full and equal participation for people with physical, sensory, cognitive or other disabilities in all aspects of life. Its purpose is to raise the consciousness of the citizens of Lincoln to the physical, educational, residential, employment, and transportation needs of our disabled residents. It achieves this by reviewing and making recommendations to the boards and agencies of Lincoln regarding policies, procedures, services, activities and facilities of the Town as they affect people with disabilities; and by monitoring the Town's public, commercial, and non-profit projects and programs that impact the individual and collective needs of its disabled citizens.

Most recently, the Commission has worked with the Town to accomplish the following:

- Railing to Smith School Voting. We collaborated with the Lincoln Schools to install a railing on the south side of the Smith School to make access to voting easier.
- Commuter Rail Parking Lot. We worked with the Town police and the DPW to improve the handicapped parking at the commuter rail parking lot.

As this is the tenth year of the Commission it seems fitting to mention the accomplishments we have seen over these years, accomplishments that are not ours but the Town's, its people and its organizations.

- Elevator at Bemis Hall. The elevator has provided all access to the handicapped equipment storage level and the auditorium floor.
- Ramp for wheelchair access to Bemis Hall on the north side of the building.
- Codman Pool Lift. The lift has allowed access to the Codman Pool for all with a physical disability.
- ADA state mandated self evaluation, which is still in process. This evaluation reviews the accessibility of all facilities, programs and communications in Lincoln.
- Handicapped-accessible bathrooms at Codman Community Farm.
- Hearing-assistance earphones at the Brooks School Auditorium for Town Meetings.
- Automatic door openers at the Library and the Town Offices Building.
- Drumlin Farm's wheelchair-accessible path which goes down the hill

from the Nature Center

Those who have a disability, have a child, relative or neighbor with a disability or any concerns or questions are encouraged to contact the Commission through Anita Scheipers at the Town Offices Building ([scheipersa@lincolntown.org](mailto:scheipersa@lincolntown.org)). The Commission meets at Town Hall in the Donaldson Room on the first Tuesday of each month. Townspeople are welcome, and new members are encouraged to apply.