

ACCESS ANDOVER

Official Newsletter of the Commission on Disability

The Commission on Disability is charged with addressing the disability needs of the Town and its residents.

This includes ensuring new construction is ADA compliant, that accessible parks, playgrounds and outdoor resources are available for all who call Andover home, and to serve as advocates and educators in/around disability rights.

Commission Members

Justin Coppola, Sr. Chair

Katherine Ananis

Carlene Bell-Flanagan

Kathleen Dolan

David Kahn

Jemma Lambert, Staff Liaison

Trish Leelman

Elizabeth Maldari

Eileen Reilly

Hannah Wilen

Janet Nicosia, ADA Officer

Steve Surette, DPW

Liam Flanagan, Andover High School Liaison

Gail Bloom, Council on Aging Liaison

Ellen Townson, Conservation Commission Liaison

Annie Gilbert, Select Board Liaison

This issue:

Accessible Kayak Launch
at Nason's Landing

Accessible Rail Trail at
Haggett's Pond

Respectful Language

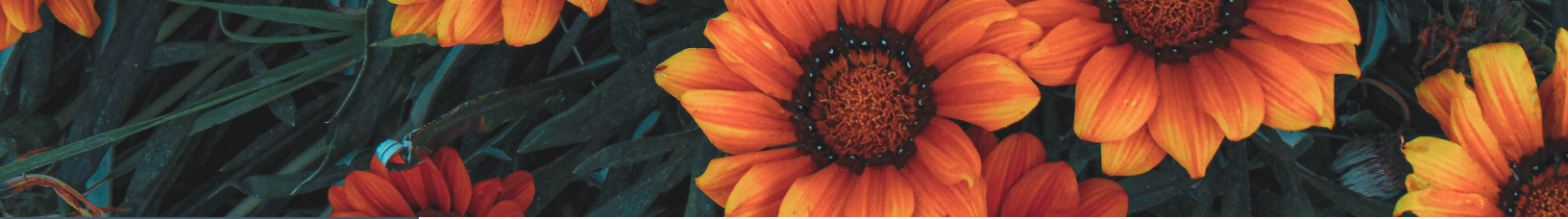
Dates to Remember

**July- Disability Pride
Month**

**July 26th, 1990
The Americans With
Disabilities Act was
signed into law**

**March - National
Disabilities
Awareness Month**

**December 3rd -
International Day of
Persons With
Disabilities**



The Commission on Disability

Advises and assists Town officials in addressing the needs of people with disabilities

Ensures compliance with state and federal disability laws.

Advocates for full inclusion of people with disabilities.

Sponsors projects which improve the lives of those with disabilities.

Provides information and referral to those seeking it.

The Commission meets the 4th Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm. Meetings are currently virtual. All are welcome!

Check us out.

Email:

acod.mhl.org/contact-us

Website:

Web: acod.mhl.org

Town Awarded MassTrails Grant for Construction of Haggetts Pond Rail Trail

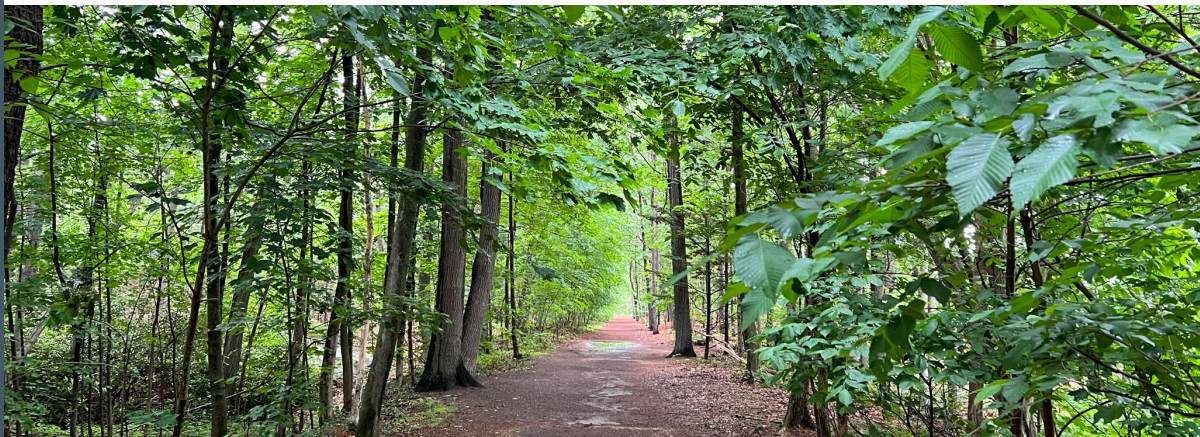
On Wednesday, June 14, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll announced that the Town of Andover has been awarded a \$500,000 grant through the Commonwealth's MassTrails Grant Program for construction of the Haggetts Pond Rail Trail.

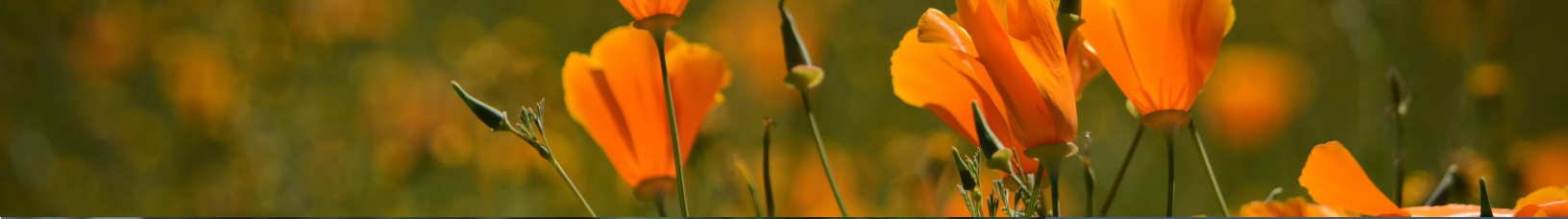
The goal of the project is to improve the existing trail at Haggetts Pond to make it more welcoming and usable to all town residents. The 10 to 12-foot paved trail proposed at the site will be ADA accessible, providing opportunities for persons of all abilities to enjoy Haggetts Pond and the pristine environment that surrounds it.

When completed, the trail will be the first Town-sponsored accessible and ADA compliant trail in Andover, making it a cornerstone of accessible recreational opportunity in the community.

On July 11th, 2023 the Select Board also approved the Town Manager's recommendation to reallocate \$725,000 in ARPA funds to supplement the grant. More details on the expanded scope of the project will be available later this summer.

"This award is a great milestone in the Andover Commission on Disability's goal of ADA Program Access: to ensure that all of the town programs, services, and activities, when viewed in their entirety, are accessible to people with disabilities," said Commission on Disability Chair Justin Coppola.





Andover's 2023 Special Olympics Pickleball Tournament

This was a first for Andover's Recreation Division.

App. 150 players and spectators met up at Rec Park for the all-day event.

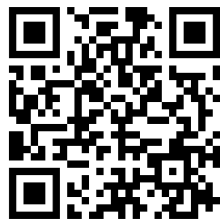
THE COMMISSION ON
DISABILITY IS CHARGED
WITH ADDRESSING THE
DISABILITY NEEDS OF THE
TOWN AND ITS RESIDENTS.



LIBRARY SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



ROBB CENTER SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



THIS INCLUDES ENSURING
NEW CONSTRUCTION IS
ADA COMPLIANT, THAT
ACCESSIBLE PARKS,
PLAYGROUNDS AND
OUTDOOR RESOURCES
ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL
WHO CALL ANDOVER
HOME, AND TO SERVE AS
ADVOCATES AND
EDUCATORS IN/AROUND
DISABILITY RIGHTS.

WORDS MATTER

Respectful Language

People with disabilities

Accessible parking/restroom

He has autism

She uses a wheelchair

Disrespectful Language

The handicapped

The disabled

Handicapped

parking/restroom

He's autistic

She is wheelchair bound



Nason's Landing Accessible Boat Launch

Above is an example of an accessible canoe and kayak launch. Users are able to safely transfer into their boat via a series of benches.

At this year's Annual Town Meeting voters approved funding for the design of an accessible canoe & kayak launch at Nason's Landing, along with limited off-road parking on Town Conservation land, located at 59 River Street. The project, once designed, will be brought to the 2024 Town Meeting for approval.



NASON'S LANDING SITE FEATURES

• NEW DEVELOPED SITE
• GRAVEL PARKING LOT
• NEW ACCESS DRIVE AND WALKWAY

Keep in mind, what is acceptable terminology for some people may not be the appropriate terminology for others.

Ask the person or group how they want to be identified.