

Milton Commission on Disability
Town of Milton
525 Canton Avenue
Milton, MA 02186

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Conservation and Reservation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114-2199

July 19, 2021

Attn: Rachael Lee, Site Accessibility Specialist

RE: Access Improvements at Great Blue Hill Observation Tower
Blue Hills Reservation, Milton, MA

Dear Rachael,

The Milton Commission on Disability appreciates your submission on behalf of the Department of Conservation and Reservation (DCR) and the request for our input into the planned renovations of Eliot Tower in the Blue Hills. Thank you for attending our meeting on July 7, 2021 to present and answer questions on the plans for the updating of Eliot Tower in the Blue Hills.

We were pleased that the DCR carefully considered various means of increasing access to the tower through ramps that provide access to the pavilion and terrace, and ground-level interpretation for visitors who cannot use stairs to access the top of Eliot Tower.

As discussed, the Commission suggests the following additional elements be considered for this design:

- 1) Adding descriptive maps and detailed information on the DCR website for visitors to be aware of both the accessible features and also clearly stating that elements of the paths leading to Eliot Tower are narrow, winding and include steep grades.
- 2) Detailed signage prominently displayed and listed on the DCR website informing visitors of the accessible ramp at the rear of the tower structure.

3) Securing all picnic tables at this site to prevent visitors from moving tables where they may block accessible pathways.

4) The addition of one or two ADA accessible picnic table(s) secured onto the terrace.

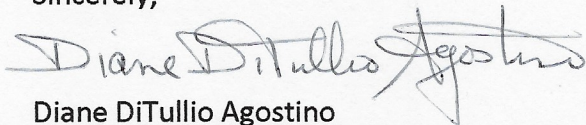
5) Explore solar powered mechanisms to permit live streaming of the view from the top of Eliot Tower for those to enjoy the view on the terrace media device and for those unable to physically visit the site at all.

5) Explore the use of "beach mats" or rubber mats to provide smoother paths around the tower and on the terrace and in front of the fireplace.

The Commission also suggests ongoing examination of safety data in and around Eliot Tower to address additional safety improvements in a timely manner.

We appreciate and value DCR's careful attention to increasing accessibility of this invaluable asset in Milton.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Diane DiTullio Agostino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Agostino" being more prominent and stylized.

Diane DiTullio Agostino
Chair, Milton Commission on Disability