

ALL CITIZENS ACCESS COMMITTEE OF BREWSTER
2008 Survey Letter re Brewster's Residents with Special Needs

Dear Brewster Resident,

Brewster's All Citizens Access Committee needs your help and input. Our committee is primarily concerned with accessibility issues for anyone of any age with disabilities--disabilities with hearing, sight, mobility, and the like. We are trying to assess how we can make it easier for those with special needs to use our town's facilities and establishments.

The first step in doing this is to identify what special needs are involved; secondly, to identify what areas we can change to accommodate these special needs; and thirdly, to identify how we can accomplish these changes. For example, our committee recently asked the town to install an automatic door opener at the handicap entrance on the south side of Town Hall, similar to those recently installed at the library. This will improve access for everyone, especially for those who use wheelchairs or have difficulty opening doors.

Special needs refers to both temporary and permanent disabilities: perhaps you or one of your family members has to use a wheelchair to get around due to an illness or accident; perhaps you had hip surgery and had to use a walker for a while; perhaps you had eye surgery which impaired your sight temporarily; perhaps a broken bone forced you to use crutches; perhaps your hearing is impaired due to an accident or infection; or perhaps someone in your household is using oxygen. Whether you or someone you know has endured temporary handicaps or has permanent disabilities, we would really like to get input from you-- input that will give our committee guidance as to what we need to do here in Brewster to make access for everyone with special needs as good as it can be.

Also included in our survey are some important questions re emergency preparedness. Our committee is working with Brewster's Emergency Preparedness Team helping to identify anyone with special needs who would need assistance in case of a severe emergency.

Your input is most important if we are going to be successful in this effort. The more input, the better the survey, and the better served will be our Brewster residents and visitors. So, please let us hear from you. You can drop off your survey at the Council on Aging office, mail it to the address below, or email your remarks.

All Citizens Access Committee
C/O Mrs. Jean Sears
1673 Main Street
Brewster, MA 02631

Telephone: 508-896-2737
Email: drego@town.brewster.ma.us

There is one other item to mention and that is that we would love to have new members join our committee. We are a town-appointed committee and we meet at 2pm on the 3rd Friday of each month (except during July and August) at the Council on Aging. We would be delighted to have you join us so that Brewster's disability/handicap access issues can continue to be addressed.

We would appreciate your returning the survey as soon as possible and we look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

The Members of Brewster's All Citizens Access Committee

ALL CITIZENS ACCESS COMMITTEE OF BREWSTER

1673 Main Street, Brewster, MA 02631

2008 Survey re Brewster's Residents with Special Needs

1. Is there anyone in your household who has special needs? **Yes No**
2. Would you briefly describe these special needs? Please remember that special needs includes all types of disabilities.

3. With regard to Brewster's town facilities: Do you encounter any difficulties when visiting or conducting business at:

	Yes	No
Town Hall (such as paying taxes or attending meetings)?	_____	_____
The Brewster Ladies Library?	_____	_____
Council on Aging Building?	_____	_____
Fire Station?	_____	_____
Police Station?	_____	_____
Recreation Department?	_____	_____
Stony Brook School (where town meetings are held)?	_____	_____
Dump?	_____	_____

Could you please describe what makes it difficult for you? Do you have any suggestions as to how we can make it better and easier for you?

4. With regard to Brewster's recreational areas: What public ocean/pond beaches do you frequent? (Please circle)

Ocean Beaches

Crosby Landing Linnell Landing Ellis Landing Mant's Landing(formerly Robbins Hill Beach)
Breakwater Beach Paines Creek Beach Point of Rocks Beach Saints Landing Beach

Pond Beaches

Sheep Pond Long Pond Upper Mill Pond Slough Pond Walkers Pond

5. Are you aware that our town has a beach wheelchair available for use by anyone who has difficulty walking on the beach? **Yes No**. Would anyone in your household or visiting you ever use this special beach wheelchair? **Yes No**

6. With regard to some of Brewster's other recreational areas: Do you encounter any difficulties when you visit:

	Yes	No
Drummer Boy Park?	_____	_____
Whitecaps Ball Field?	_____	_____
Captain's Golf Course?	_____	_____
Grist Mill-Herring Run Area?	_____	_____

Could you please describe what makes it difficult for you? Do you have any suggestions as to how we can make it better and easier for you?

7. Lastly, two very important questions regarding emergencies and disaster preparedness:

A) Would anyone in your household need assistance evacuating to an emergency center if the need arose? **Yes No**

If **yes**, please write your name & telephone number at the bottom of this survey and someone from the Emergency Preparedness Team will contact you. Or, you can call Lt. Bausch directly at the Brewster Police Station at 1-508-896-7011. All information is confidential.

B) Is there any special equipment you would need to have on hand at the emergency center? **Yes No Please explain:**

Note: If you need more space for comments, please just continue onto a second page. Thank you.