

**Minutes**  
**Town of Acton**  
**Commission on Disabilities**  
**September 15, 2015**  
**9:30 am, Town Hall, Room 126**

**Members Present:** Madeleine Harvey, Cindy Patton, Lisa Franklin, Danny Factor (on remote until 10:30 am), and Nancy Corcoran

**Associate Member Absent:** Leslie Johnson

**Guest:** Kevin Antonelli, Joan Burrows (applicant for associate), Franny Osman (Board of Selectmen (BOS) liaison)

---

**Call to Order:** 9:30 am

**Citizens' Concern:** A resident had difficulty getting to the Veterans' Affairs Office where she had an appointment. There were no instructions for the use of the lift. Lisa and Cindy visited and found that there were no signs at the lift. Lisa spoke to Frank Ramsbottom about the issue.

**Announcements:** Announcements were e-mailed to members.

:

**Board of Selectmen's (BOS) report:** Franny wants the COD to talk about transportation. We need to send in our comments about the fixed bus routes that have been proposed. They are having a problem getting drivers. The Transportation meeting is tomorrow night. The BOS meeting can be watched on the internet.

**Elections:** Slate: Chairperson Mady Harvey, Vice Chairperson Cindy Patton, Secretary Cindy Patton, and Treasurer Leslie Johnson. Nancy made a motion that the slate of officers be elected, 2nd Lisa, Unanimous.

**34 Elm Street Update:** We discussed the 34 Elm Street letter written by Danny and Leslie. Lisa made a motion to send the letter to the Beacon. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mady, Unanimous. We decided that Mady will be the signature for the letter.

**Updates:**

- **Town Meeting Access:** Eva Szkaradek said that the state is fine with two different methods of voting. Eva wasn't reassuring that there would be another meeting to discuss access for Town Meeting. Franny said there might not be a Special Town Meeting in November. Lisa wants to make sure that the accommodations notice will be

in the warrant. Residents need to know ahead of time that accommodations are possible so that they can make arrangements for this service. Cindy asked Danny if the CART services were asked about. He didn't ask about it, but felt sure that we had already been guaranteed that the CART services would be used. Danny and Cindy will follow up.

- **Douglas School:** Several COD members and Frank Ramsbottom went on a site visit to Douglas School. The biggest access problem is vertical access. It is not reasonable to make someone go outside to access the bottom floor. The status quo is not acceptable. There are access problems in the bathrooms and some slopes are out of code. JD Head invited representatives from the COD to meet with the consultants for the 5 year plan. Danny said that Frank said that perhaps a stair lift would suffice to make the lower floor accessible. It was suggested that we invite Tom Hopkins to come out to the site to help. Nancy suggested that Cindy should be involved. That would cause a problem with meeting because of Open Meeting Law (OML). Danny suggested that Cindy and Nancy could be the two people to take over this issue. The subcommittee needs to meet with JD Head (end of Oct., or early Nov.). Nancy will call Tom Hopkins.
- **Lower Fields variance:** Application for a variance has not been made yet.
- **Pedal Power:** Frank sent them a letter. COD members should check on compliance.
- **Teamworks (further variances):** There is no new information.
- **Allen Engineering (ramps):** Ms. Cafta will meet with Mike Kennedy. Danny will be following up once more.

**Community Center:** The first question to be addressed is should the COD take a position on having a Senior Center or a Community Center. This will probably be brought up at town meeting. Danny said that as advisors we should take a position. In an email to the COD, Marge Kennedy said that there is a big problem of isolation in Acton. Nancy is going to go to a meeting of the Minuteman Services in Concord to collect information on Oct. 7. Franny does not see that this should be about taking sides. The BOS has the Senior Center Study Committee (SCSC) on the agenda for Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>. Danny made a motion to choose one delegate to go to the meeting on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> to remind them that we would support a solution that meets the needs of seniors and people with disabilities who can be isolated. There was no 2<sup>nd</sup>. Franny reported that the CSCS will do no further work until they hear from the BOS and the COD should not take a side as to whether it be a community or senior center. Nancy said that the COD should take a position. Lisa said that we cannot take sides because until the issue is settled it is contentious on how to make a stand. We need to give input in a timely manner since we don't want to wait until it is too late. Franny said that the SCSC will not be making a proposal to the BOS.

**Review of August 18<sup>th</sup> Minutes:** Mady made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa, Unanimous.

**Remote participation voting:** Most COD members know about this. The COD is exempt from the part of OML that states that people have to be present in order to vote. When using remote access one member of the COD must be at the meeting site.

**New Member Search Update:** Charlie Aaronson has Joan's application. Franny needs to meet with her.

**Set Agenda for October:**

Access for Town Meeting  
Debrief on Interfaith Meeting  
Review 2015 objectives, start 2016 objective.  
Update from Nancy on Minuteman Services  
New Self Education Topic  
Transportation Issues  
SCSC: issues relating to people with disabilities.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was accepted. Mady wanted to know when we start a new budget year. Franny will look into this.

**Community Access Meeting (CAM):** Who will attend? Do we give funding for this meeting? Franny said that she may go. Mady made a motion that if anyone wants to go the COD will pay the registration fee and mileage. 2<sup>nd</sup> Nancy, Unanimous.

**COD Handbook:** The handbooks are not ready. Kevin volunteered to help with copying and compilation.

**Business Card - new design:** The card design must include the town emblem. New business cards are in the file cabinet. Nancy asked if we can have the cards enlarged to post in businesses.

**Determine Dates for:**

- **Self-Education Topic:** Do we need the October 21 meeting for self-education? Mady made a motion that we cancel the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nancy, 3 for, 1 against.
- **Annual COD Social Event:** The social event will happen on Nov. 1, at Franny's Common House, from 3 to 6 pm. Lisa's Community Room will serve as a backup.
- **Adjourn:** 12:00 pm

**DocuShare:**

34 Elm Street Letter  
Announcements for September