

Minutes
Town of Acton
Commission on Disabilities
October 20, 2015
9:30 am, Town Hall, Room 126

Members Present: Madeleine Harvey, Cindy Patton, Lisa Franklin, Danny Factor and Nancy Corcoran

Associate Members Present: Leslie Johnson, Joan Burrows

Guest: Kevin Antonelli, Franny Osman (Board of Selectmen (BOS) liaison)

Call to Order: 9:30 am

Citizens' Concern:

1. Kevin asked if the COD would like to support an effort to get automatic doors at the Town Hall and Public Safety building. Lisa said that the COD was involved with the design of the Public Safety building and there was a discussion about electric doors. The COD will discuss it at the November meeting. Danny will speak to Frank Ramsbottom about the issue. Kevin will draft a letter.
2. The COD received an email from a resident stating that he was discriminated against because of his race and disability. He had to make three trips to the Town Hall to accomplish what he considered to be a simple procedure for the Town Clerk. Danny stated that this has to do with his disability. Kevin said it is not about his disability and he has found that the clerks are very helpful to people with disabilities. Cindy said that this is not a disability issue and the COD should not be involved. She also stated that if the resident feels he was discriminated against that he should speak to the Town Manager. Lisa made a motion that the COD not be involved in this matter, Nancy 2nd. The COD will send an e-mail to the resident stating that we are not handling this issue and that Acton Human Resources is working on it. The vote was 4 for, 1 against.

Announcements:

- Cindy, Kevin and Mady cleaned up the COD files. Most things were not thrown out but rearranged. Our materials are in a file cabinet and in the closet in the room next to 126.
- On October 28th there will be a meeting about the \$18,000 grant received by Acton Human Services. This grant is to address the isolation of individuals in Acton. If you are going to attend the meeting you need to RSVP with Sheryl Ball.
- The Member Handbooks are ready and were distributed at the meeting. Danny and Mady worked on this project. We are indebted to Lisa Tomy for copying and collating the materials. Danny, Mady, Kevin and Cindy put the books together. Thanks to Lisa Tomy the entire Handbook can be found on DocuShare. Members were asked to go

over the books and see if they have any comments. This will be discussed at the November or December meeting.

- Lisa met with the State Independent Living Council and they have only received 87 responses to their Needs Assessment. Lisa would like to encourage members to fill out and send in the questionnaires.
- The COD social will be held on November 1 from 3 to 6 pm at Franny's.

Board of Selectmen's (BOS) report: None

Updates:

- **Town Meeting Access:** Danny and Cindy were disappointed that the accommodations for residents with disabilities at the Town Meeting would not be available at the November Special Meeting. Danny will send an email to the members of the committee showing our disappointment at this situation and the fact that the committee will not be meeting before the November Town Meeting.
- **33 Nagog Park:** The applicant Ken Roberts, for the Town of Acton, was at the review and said that the Architectural Access Board (AAB) was interested in the 11% slope at the front door. When asked, Tom Hopkins, chairperson of the AAB, said no additional review of this variance will happen until the minutes are printed. Ken sent out a letter that stated that at the 2014 site visit it was said that the slope was useable. Danny made a motion to send a short email to Tom Hopkins to correct that idea. 2nd Mady, Unanimous.
- **Douglas School:** JD Head would like one member from the COD to meet with the consultants for the school's 5-year plan. The meeting will be held on October 28th at 10 am and Cindy will attend.
- **Lower Fields variance:** It looks like this matter will soon be settled. Frank has approved the use of painted stripes to show where the accessible slope is located.
- **Pedal Power:** Danny did a drive by and the bikes are on the sidewalk. Frank said he would send Hank out to speak with them. Danny will follow up on this.
- **Teamworks (further variances):** .The AAB said that Teamworks has to build a ramp that meets the specifications set by the law. Teamworks said that it should be built before the winter. The AAB also wants us to take a wider view to look at issues of code compliance on the whole site. Danny will follow up on this.

Review of Sept 15 Minutes: Nancy made a motion to accept the Sept 15 minutes and October 1 minutes with corrections. Lisa 2nd, Unanimous.

Debrief of Interfaith Network Meeting: Lisa, Cindy and Mady met with the Interfaith Network members. The members were very responsive. They suggested that we have this meeting annually. Transportation was a major topic. Many parishioners need transportation to services. We talked about people with disabilities that may be disruptive during services. Mental health issues were also discussed. Lisa suggested that contacting the group - Recovery Learning - may be helpful.

Report on Minuteman Services Meeting about senior vs community center:

Nancy said that the meeting was very well attended. The State had a power point that they will send to Nancy. We need a copy of the Minuteman Service's brochure – "Know Us Before You Need Us". There was a discussion about Still Parenting (parents that are still taking care of their children with developmental disabilities). Should we have Minuteman Services speak to the COD? Nancy will contact Joan Butler (Minuteman Services). Lisa is a member of the ADRC (Aging Disabilities Resource Consortium). They work on this problem. Leslie said that many agencies are hiring people who have no certification. Minuteman only recommends agencies.

November 2015 Town Meeting issues: We discussed the Core Curriculum and Kelley's Corner's articles. There was nothing that the COD should take a position on. Danny said that some member of the COD should make comments at Town Meeting on Kelley' Corner. He also said that the community of people with disabilities should let it be known that they should have input in the design of this type of project. Motion by Danny that the COD make a statement for article 7, No 2nd.

Review 2015 objectives: Welcome Packet and Kids on the Block (KOB)

Welcome Packet - The health information portion is done. We have one response from Roche Bros but it was from the corporate office. Lisa is not getting many responses. Some of the restaurants are writing descriptions. The Welcome Packet will be printed as a booklet and the format still has to be determined. The packet will not be completed in 2015. Joan offered to do some work in West Square. Lisa and Leslie will continue working on the packet. Danny thinks we should keep up with this at every meeting.

KOB – There has not been a lot of progress on this project. Cindy is currently trying to contact the principal of Grey Jr. High. This project will not be completed in 2015. Cindy will keep the COD informed of the project's progress.

Begin determination of 2016 objectives: We need to decide what goal we will choose for 2016. Lisa made a motion that we continue with the way we have done it in the past and pick a goal. We need to go through the project list to help us decide which will fulfil the goals for that year. Cindy 2nd, 2 for, 3 against. Lisa would like to see the project list. We will discuss this in November. Kevin said that we should give a six month deadline for projects and then decide if we still want to focus on those projects.

Set Agenda for November:

Goals and Objectives for 2016

Update on Acton Boxborough Schools, Teamworks, 33 Nagog, Red House

Update on Town Meeting

Annual Report

Determine new self-education topic: Mady read a list of possible ideas from Lisa. Do we want to learn more about mental health? Leslie could be our speaker. Leslie felt that talking about housing might be an idea. Danny said that we should wait until we pick our goals and objectives. Lisa would like to choose the idea now. Lisa moves that we do mental health, Nancy 2nd, 4 for, 1 against.

Adjourn: 12:33 pm

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Patton (secretary)