

Minutes
Town of Acton
Commission on Disabilities
January 19, 2016
9:30 am, Town Hall, Room 126

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

Associate Members Present: Joan Burrows

Associate Member Absent: Leslie Johnson

Guest: Kevin Antonelli

Call to Order: 9:32 am

Citizens' Concern: None

Announcements:

- MOD's (Mass Office on Disabilities) pamphlets "Disability Rights Laws in Mass" are updated and were distributed to members of the COD.
- Acton's Transition plan is up-to-date and is available from some town employees. Lisa Tomyl has a copy of the plan.
- CAT's (Cross Acton Transit) ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Friday, January 29th at 10:30 am at the Town Hall.
- The renovated train station in South Acton is now accessible. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held in the spring.
- Lisa would like to look at Acton's transition plan with Frank Ramsbottom (Head Building Inspector). Mady made a motion that we delegate Lisa to talk to Frank about the Transition Plan, 2nd by Danny, Unanimous.
- Nancy needs help for a friend who is in Acton Life Care. Danny suggested meeting with Laura Ducharme (Acton Social Worker). Danny also offered to contact lawyers in the area to see if her friend is listed as a client.
- The Police Forum is scheduled on Wednesday, January 20th in room 204 at Town Hall at 7:30 pm. Nancy has concerns about how residents with mental illness are handled by the police.
- Nancy reported that the Senior Center Study Committee met and abutters and environmental concerns are issues that still exist.

Board of Selectmen's (BOS) report: None

Review of December 15th minutes: Danny made a motion to accept the December 15 minutes with corrections, 2nd by Joan, unanimous.

Updates:

- **Acton-Boxborough Schools (ABS):** Danny is waiting for JD Head (Head of Facilities for ABS) to make definite dates for school site visits.
- **33 Nagog Park:** The site visit is scheduled for January 22nd at 10 am. Danny and Cindy will attend and all members of the COD are welcome.
- **Town Meeting Accessibility:** Electronic voting will not be ready for the February Special Town Meeting. Danny distributed an e-mail that he proposed to send to the members of the committee that was formed to look at access problems at Town Meeting. The e-mail was read and will be sent.
- **Teamworks:** Danny talked to Frank Ramsbottom again about the ramp at Teamworks. He said that the construction plan is sufficient and ready to go ahead now but Michael Harrington (Manager at the Acton Teamworks) would still like to wait until spring. Tom Hopkins of the Architectural Access Board (AAB) said that Teamworks needs to ask for a time variance. Tom Hopkins was also contacted about the fact that Mr. Harrington said that he does not think that a site visit for the whole complex is necessary.
- **Municipal properties/veteran's affairs building accessibility:** The site visit has been scheduled for Friday, January 22nd, after the 33 Nagog site visit.
- **CAT bus:** Danny has scripted a letter to send to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) about the CAT bus not being accessible. Nancy and Danny discussed about having a COD member go to the next TAC meeting. Doug Halley is still the head of Transportation in Acton. Mady made a motion that Danny send the letter via e-mail, Nancy 2nd, unanimous.
- **Kids on the Block (KOB):** Nothing to update.

Welcome packet: The packet is basically done. Leslie and Lisa met to go over it. They are waiting for some other places, such as The Acton Family Network, to respond. Danny said that he would like groups and committees in Acton to know that there are plenty of places to meet in public places and not in individual homes. There are twelve subjects. Leslie told Lisa that she would like them printed on card stock paper and folded over. Lisa said that Leslie was the main person working on this project. Lisa was requested to give a draft of the document to the members of the COD before it is printed.

Coordinating with League of Women Voters (LWV) on March Elections: March 1st is the presidential primary election. Town elections are scheduled for later in the month. What should we be doing? Danny said that we should have a liaison between the COD and LWV to ensure that the polls are accessible to all. Cindy said that there should be more handicapped parking (HP) at the Junior High on election days. Kevin will contact Eva Szkaradek about providing more HP parking for the Junior High on election days.

2016 Objectives Breakdown:

- **Objective #1** Support individuals and families dealing with mental illness through meeting with stakeholders and supporting an informational meeting.
 - Danny said that we need to meet with stakeholders (NAMI, health care professional, families and social workers). We need to create a list of Acton residents with mental illness and decide how many meetings we need to have.
 - Lisa said we should first get some input from Justin Brown at the Recovery Learning Community which is an Independent Living Center that is partnered with the Department of Mental Health and supports people with mental illness. Lisa will contact him and invite him to a meeting.
 - Cindy is not in favor of making lists of people with mental illness. It is considered a stigma by many and the COD should not be making lists that may be used to promote the stigma.
 - Nancy said that we need to educate the public. The COD should work on presentations for the public (movies, forums).
 - Joan says Kids on the Block (KOB) may be part of the presentation.
 - Kevin said that we should wait until we hear from Justin Brown before making further plans.
- **Objective # 4** Raise the awareness of Acton youth about people with disabilities through the Kids on the Block program
 - Meet with Mr. Shen (Acton Junior High principal)
 - Cindy will come up with next steps and will do an inventory of the puppets.
 - Look into the possibility of buying new puppets that explain mental illness.

Set Agenda for February:

Justin Brown

Updates: ABS, 33 Nagog, Town Meeting, Teamworks, municipal properties, CAT bus, Beacon, KOB

Subscriptions (Beacon and Disability Newsletters): The Beacon can be accessed on-line. Several members have subscriptions. Nancy said that we should have a subscription sent to Mady as chairperson. Lisa moves that we buy a subscription to the Beacon, 2nd by Nancy, unanimous. The Disability Policy Consortium has a newsletter you can get every week by going on their website. Mady will contact Colin Killick (Sumerville COD).

Minuteman Voc Tech Special Town Meeting Feb 2: The COD does not need to take a position on the issues that will be presented. Several members will be at the meeting.

Adjourn: 12:10 pm

Docushare:

E-mail Town Meeting and people with Disabilities.

E-mail Wheelchair Lift for Cross Acton Transit

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Patton (Secretary)