

Commission on Disabilities (COD)

Meeting Minutes

Feb. 18, 2020

10:00 am

Acton Town Hall, Room 126

Full Members: Ann Corcoran (Chair), Joan Burrows, Lisa Franklin, Leslie Johnson, Franny Osman (on phone);

Associate Members: Pesha Kokis, Jim Snyder-Grant

Others: Visiting Residents; Director of Governmental Affairs Austin Cyganiewicz

1. Opening

Chair Corcoran opened the meeting at 10:00 am.

2. Regular Business

- A. Shared Concerns (timely issues not on the agenda, formerly “Citizens Concerns”) – none
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The minutes of January 21, 2020 were approved, 5-0 in favor.
- C. Announcements –
 - 1. Upcoming: Independent Living Day at State House, 11 am, on March 12.
- D. Selectmen Liaison Report – Minuteman Schools update. Town Meeting Improvement Committee active, Board of Selectmen getting ready for Town Meeting. Relevant articles: 39, 40, 41.
- E. Report from Austin Cyganiewicz, Director of Governmental Affairs – Regarding the investigation into hosting Community Access Monitor trainings: If posting, hosting and food can be clarified, Acton can put a bid in to the state to host one of these meetings.

3. New Business

- A. Former Director of Recreation and Horticultural Therapist Cathy Fochtman led a discussion of the Commission on Disabilities’ offer to contribute funds toward a handicapped accessible element near the entrance to the Acton Arboretum. The desire for this contribution stems from a desire to have an easily approachable, visible horticulture experience in recognition of the Acton Commission on Disabilities and its members and volunteers.

Ms. Franklin made a motion that we explore the possibility of putting in some raised beds in the arboretum to represent the COD members and provide access for visitors with disabilities. The motion was seconded by Ms. Corcoran. A roll call vote passed the motion: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention. (Ms. Franklin abstained.)

Ms. Gardner will meet with Natural Resources Director Tom Tidman on this matter; Mr. Snyder-Grant will meet with Boy Scout resources. Discussion of possible locations near parking lot. Mention of Carroll Spinney, puppeteer, as possible additional honoree. Discussion of multigenerational advantages, including pre-school children. Ms. Johnson suggested raised beds in the North Acton community gardens along Route 27 near Robbins Brook senior housing. Ms. Franklin says that Acton Housing Authority is applying for grants for things that increase community activity. Windsor Green is asking for accessible gardening tables.

If people are interested in raised bed gardening, they should contact the Recreation Department.

1. Adjournment

At approximately 12:00 noon, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.