

Commission on Disabilities (COD)

Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2020

Zoom link :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82936355453?pwd=MFBta0d6RkIHZFZrVDBaY2hpYUxyZz09>

Present:

Full Members: Ann Corcoran (Chair), Lisa Franklin, Leslie Johnson, Franny Osman.

Others: Director of Governmental Affairs Austin Cyganiewicz

Board of Selectman Liaison: Jim Snyder-Grant

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”)
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- B. Announcements – Ms. Franklin reported that Jeff Dougan of Massachusetts Office on Disability asked if we would like him to come to Acton again. We don't see immediate questions but we will keep a running list and when we have enough we can invite him to come to a meeting.

3. New Business

- A. Ms. Franklin reported that Acton TV aired a powerpoint at the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in July. It was created by the son of chair Nancy Corcoran, Lawrence Corcoran.
- B. Ms. Franklin learned at the meeting of the Acton Housing Authority that the planned number of parking spots at the dog park, thirteen, is not enough to trigger the need for handicapped spots. However, Mr. Snyder-Grant said, the Dog Park Committee is working on getting handicapped spots there anyway, and near the field.
- C. Ms. Johnson reported on adaptive bikes. AccessSport America got a grant to buy a handcycle, which they don't currently have in their collection of adaptive bikes. If someone can't use legs to cycle, they can use their hands. With COVID, and wanting to see how it goes first with the clientele that they currently have, AccessSport wants to hold off on publicizing. Right now there are bikes every Tues. and Thursday behind the Teamworks building. Clientele has included a mother with a daughter who appears to have Downs Syndrome.

Ms. Corcoran reminded us that the COD gave \$500 to the Recreation Dept. for accessible bike rentals. There was a discussion of the timing and process of getting the money that we gave to Rec Dept. to contribute to AccessSports America's rental program. Mr. Cyganiewicz offers to work with Ms. Johnson, Melissa Rier of the Recreation Department, and the Finance Dept., to move along the use of the money to support rentals.

- D. There was a discussion of the need for new members and non-member volunteers. On the Town website it says that we are actively seeking new members. We need to look for new members so we have people waiting in the wings. Mr. Snyder-Grant will speak to Greg Hutchins who is chair of VCC and will make sure associate positions are advertised as well as full positions. Outlets for publicity: ActonTV, facebook, Nextdoor, Action Unlimited, Beacon newspaper, social media. A photograph of the group was taken.

4. Adjournment

At approximately 11 am, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.