



Commission on Disabilities

Minutes

Tuesday, July 19, 2022 10:30 am

Virtual Meeting at <https://actonma.zoom.us/j/94313570425> .

Attending

Members: Franny Osman, Lisa Franklin (co-chair), Pesha Kokis (co-chair), Joan Burrows;

Associate member: Melissa Wingfield;

Visitors: Nancy Murphy and Richard Villavicencio from the Disability Law Center, resident Paul B.

Select Board Liaison: Jim Snyder-Grant

Town Manager's office: Austin Cyganiewicz

New Business:

Presentation on Disability Law Center:

Every state has one. Non-Profit. Richard works with local commissions in the state and has a form for all to complete. They handle civil rights in housing issues, provide information and referrals (email or call). New faces often so stay in touch. May request form on line at: DLC-MA.org. Clients with disabilities are put first.

Lisa asked about renters with disabilities. Nancy replied, "Housing is tricky". If we send information to them they will try to help. Our town's legal services is small – They do not always call back as there is little staff. The law center will send out a message and landlords will get the message through them.

Franny asked them to come back to our meet on a quarterly basis. It was discussed to put a video on cable tv and tell the public through the Select Board, about the DLC. Jim Snyder-Grant wants to review the work of Southern Middlesex Opportunity Council as well (SMOC).

Update on a resident concern about a Davis Rd. condo: Lisa reports that the concerns are ongoing and the owner of the building ignores the concerned resident. It was noted that this type of issue is a good one to talk to the DLC about. Noted that several condo complexes on Route 2a have similar problems.

Transportation - Austin - MinuteVan rides are now up to date with a new driver trained. The CAT has a new route and is doing well...train and grocery store trips are more busy. There was a discussion of what trip purposes are allowed (all) or prioritized (medical). Noted that the train station will have a ramp to the new property on Maple St.

June minutes approved 4-0. Pesha moves and Lisa second.

Senior Center parking lot follow up. Pesha walked the area with Sharon. Not too much to do but a third bench might help ease the walking distance. Discussion followed. A letter will be sent to Sharon.

Acton Medical followup re: single elevator and unsafe outside transport floor-to-floor if elevator is out of service. Lisa called CODA (Alliance of COD's in MA) and was told there was "too much legaleze". Talk of ADA vs. AAB. We will file a complaint with the AAB and contact Tom Moberg of the Buildings Dept. Austin will send a letter to him.

Membership

Joan would like to discuss expanding membership to the original 7 members. We have three to four people interested. Vote 2 no / and 2 yes -need Leslie's vote.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10.

Acronyms:

CODA Commission on Disabilities Association (Mass.)

COA Acton Council on Aging

ER Emergency Room

TAC Acton Transportation Advisory Committee

SMOC Southern Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc.

Minutes submitted by Joan Burrows, edited into template by Franny Osman