

Acton commission on disabilities : Minutes April 16, 2024

Members present : Lisa Franklin, John Gianetto, Pesha Kokis, Melissa Wingfield (left at 12 noon)

Members absent: Leslie Johnson

Associate members absent: Joan Burrows

Also present: Jim Snyder-Grant (Select Board liaison), Wanjiku Gachugi (town staff)

Meeting called to order at 11:09 AM

Announcements:

- (1) We did not meet in March. There are no minutes for March 2024.
- (2) John Gianetto is now a full, voting member.
- (3) We are trying to improve the way we plan and submit our monthly agendas. The chair is meeting with Jim Snyder-Grant, our Select Board liaison, and Wanjiku Gachugi, our town staff support person to write up and post the monthly agenda.
- (4) Starting next month we will be having hybrid meetings for the summer. In May we will meet in room 126. From June through September we will be in the downstairs conference room, room number 9. Commissioners may participate in person or by zoom.
- (5) The Congregational Church is adding some accessible parking spaces. Pesha authorized Jim and Wanjiku to meet with Ed Mullen to check out the site.

Public Concerns : None that we are aware of.

Select Board update: The town has been very busy preparing for the April 17 special town meeting, the April 30th election, and the May 6th annual town meeting.

Liaison Updates : Fire chief Anita Arnum has been dealing with staffing problems, and has assigned Chris Sammet (sp?) as deputy chief. He will also be the deputy in charge of emergency management.

Open Space and Recreation Plan: Melissa Settipani, from the Recreation Department, asked for an official review letter from the Commission on the plans for improving access in conservation areas. Each commissioner will review the written report and respond to Melissa directly with feedback. Note commissioners may not discuss with each other what their feedback is, but it will be a good idea to go over what we said in a future open meeting.

Lauren West, from the Acton Sustainability Department, told us how installing some electric vehicle charging stations will affect the replacement of some handicapped parking spaces. Building commissioner Ed Mullen is involved in the planning to ensure AAB compliance. Lauren answered our questions, and invited members to follow up with any thoughts or concerns after the meeting.

For the Annual town meeting: (1) Pesha moved, John seconded, we voted 3 to 0 to support transportation on the consent calendar, should it be opposed. (2) Pesha moved, Lisa seconded, we voted 3 to 0 to support sidewalks in the zoning proposals. (3) Lisa moved, John seconded, we voted 3 to 0 to support the replacement windows at Mcmanus Village. (4) Lisa moved, Pesha seconded, we voted 3 to 0 to support the long-term lease on the Maple Street property where the food pantry may move to.

As there were only 3 members present after 12 noon, we will ask the rest of the Commission online to volunteer to either speak to one of these decisions, or to write something that can be read by a commissioner attending the meeting.

We clarified the projects we will be working on this year: (1 ) We will review the member book and update any necessary resource pages (2) Develop a common procedure for the chair to welcome new commissioners with (3) Identify and correct support needs of each individual commissioner, and (4) create an evaluation tool to help decide whether to take on any additional projects.

We needed to table for next month the evaluation of the polling station and the duties of the cochair.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10.