

## **Acton Commission on Disabilities (COD): Minutes for April 15, 2025**

**Members present:** Lisa Franklin, Leslie Johnson, Pesha Kokis, Melissa Wingfield, Jim Snyder Grant (select board liaison), Wanjiku Gachuge (staff support person)

**Members absent:** John Gianetto

**Attendees:** Dean Charter, Laura Ducharme, Franny Osman (editor, Acton Exchange)

**Meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.**

**Dean Charter**, Select Board Vice Chair, went over the proposed new DPW building. We discussed required access regulations. The specific planning of the building depends on its passage at next month's Annual Town Meeting.

**Melissa** presented details of the ADA event we are having in July of this year.

-We unanimously agreed it would be on Sunday, July 27 from 11am to 2 pm at the lower pavilion at NARA park.

-Laura Ducharme will arrange transportation for the event. To run the van outside of TransAction's regular hours, it is cheaper to hire Acton's school bus drivers.

-Lisa will contact the Recreation Dept and fill out the reservation papers.

-After further discussions on food, Melissa will continue her research, and we will vote on the final decision of what to order during next month's meeting.

-Melissa obtained a \$100 gift card from Roche Brothers to go towards the event.

-We also agreed to order some buttons that will say, "Nothing about us without us /Acton COD."

-We voted unanimously that Melissa is empowered to make decisions on all other details regarding the ADA event.

**Laura Ducharme** explained the many sources that contribute to the funding of Acton's transportation program, CrossTown Connect.

We unanimously approved the March 18, 2025 minutes.

**Melissa** left the meeting at 11:40 am.

There were no citizen concerns this month.

**Jim Snyder-Grant** reminded us that Annual Town Meeting will be on May 5 and 6, and that the town election is on April 29.

We discussed the Train Trip idea, and Lisa, Pesha, and Leslie voted unanimously for September as the best month to do this. Lisa called the MBTA and is waiting for a call back from their Travel Trainer Program who can assist us with putting this trip together at no cost. (MBTA customer service number is 617-222-3200). We decided to wait on choosing a specific day, depending on how busy the vans are, but it was unanimous that it be on a weekday.

We all agreed that it would be a good idea to invite our State Legislators, Dan Sena, Simon Cataldo, and Jamie Eldridge to a future meeting to discuss the needs of people with disabilities in Acton and throughout the state.

**Lisa and Pesha** will be attending Town Meeting and it was unanimously agreed on that they could speak for the COD, if necessary, in supporting the transportation budget, the renovations to the Memorial Library, and the construction of a new DPW building.

**We adjourned at 11:57 am.**

**Documents used:** A power point presentation from Dean Charter on the DPW building.