

Commission on Disability

Date: July 30, 2010

Time: 3:30 pm

Place: Acton Town Hall, Faulkner Room 204

Members Present: Daniel Factor, Lisa Franklin, and Brenda Viola.

Member Absent: Joy Kohout

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Chairperson Lisa Franklin at 3:30 pm

Documents: Application for Variances on 535-537 Massachusetts Avenue
Letter from the Commission to the Architectural Access Board

Minutes:

1.) May 1st minutes were tabled for approval. Joy Kohout was not able to attend today's meeting to provide a quorum on those minutes.

2.) The Application for Variances of 535-537 Massachusetts Avenue were reviewed and discussed. It was decided we could not support the variances as submitted. A letter was composed expressing our opinions (see below). The letter was approved by a unanimous vote and will be submitted to the Architectural Access Board.

These July 30, 2010 Minutes were reviewed and accepted as written.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Viola, Secretary



ACTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Town Hall
Acton, MA 01720

Thomas Hopkins, Director
Architectural Access Board
One Ashburton Place, Room 1310
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

July 30, 2010

Dear Thomas and the AAB,

We cannot support the Application for Variance concerning 535-537 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton.

At present, the Supporting Statement does not provide enough information to support the contention that the \$137,222.00 cost of an elevator is truly extreme. In order to determine the reasonableness of said expense, the town would need the following additional information:

- a) the total projected cost of the 537 Massachusetts Avenue project
- b) the total projected cost of the entire WAVE project
- c) the prospect that additional elevators might be required in the remaining phases of the project

The above needs to be investigated because absent an elevator being installed to provide access to all four floors of 537 Massachusetts Avenue, individuals with disabilities would:

- a) be excluded from being employed by 2nd and 3rd floor tenants
- b) be excluded from being a 2nd and 3rd floor tenant
- c) encounter unreasonable hardship transferring between the street level and parking level floors by having to go outside and circle around the building which is particularly burdensome for persons with disabilities, especially in inclement weather.

Installing the elevator also would alleviate our concerns about the parallel on street parking space proposed in front of the building. Said parking space as proposed does not meet the requirements of some persons with limited mobility, such individuals using a wheelchair van. Installing an elevator alleviates this impediment by allowing wheelchair vans to park in the back parking lot where the elevator would provide access to all four floors.

As a result of the limitations which are inherent in the plan outlined in the Supporting Statement, the additional information outlined in paragraph one is necessary.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Viola, Secretary, Acton Commission on Disability

