

Commission on Disabilities (COD)

Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2021

Zoom link :

<https://actonma.zoom.us/j/96765753686>

Or From a telephone, dial (646) 876-9923 and enter Webinar ID: 967 6575 3686

Present:

Full Members: Joan Burrows, Franny Osman (Chair), Lisa Franklin, Leslie Johnson

Missing: Pesha Kokis

Board of Selectman Liaison: Jim Snyder-Grant

Other: Three COD volunteers and other residents

1. Opening

Chair Osman opened the meeting at 10:30 am after check-in.

2. Regular Business

- A. Shared Concerns (timely issues not on the agenda, formerly “Citizens Concerns”)- none
- B. Announcements – none
- C. Liaison Updates- none
- D. Review of Minutes- none

3. New Business

- A. 67 Powdermill development- Past COD member Danny Factor shared Green Acton’s opposition to the development. COD had written a letter in December 2020 in opposition to this development based on safety issues, and decided at a March 9 emergency meeting to write another letter about safety and our request to add accessible units. That letter was not sent out yet as the hearing was postponed. Now COD decided to write that letter with more urgency. Ms. Johnson moved that we send a letter urging the Select Board to say no to the Site Plan Special Permit. Ms. Burrows seconded. The roll call vote was 3-0, with one abstention. The motion passed. Ms. Osman offered to write the letter.
- B. 22 Elm St. cluster development- Mr. Factor described the plan and Green Acton’s negative opinion. Ms. Johnson moved that we write to the Planning Board urging accessible housing be included because the area is so flat and full of amenities. Ms. Burrows seconded. The COD voted 4-0 in favor. The motion passed. Ms. Burrows offered to write the letter. Developer is Red Acre.
- C. Activities COD will do in the coming months: Alert people to the home modification loans from the state through Southern Middlesex Opportunity Council, Mass.Rehabilitation Commission; Jones Field opening as an accessible

playground; ADA celebration in August; Octoberfest; Adaptive Bike purchases and rental by town, working with Adaptive Bike Coalition. Ms. Johnson made a motion to work on all of these issues this year, Ms. Franklin seconded. COD voted 4-0 in favor. The motion passed.

- D. Discussion of Drive-up Windows with agreement it would be helpful for residents with disabilities. Ms. Johnson agreed to write a letter regarding this issue.
- E. \$30,000 grant from MAPC for using taxis for off-hours ride needs- CrossTown Connect is working on implementation. Residents should share their ideas with COD or CrossTown Connect. Neighbor Brigade also provides rides through volunteers and Uber/Lyft cards.

4. Adjournment

At approximately 12 noon, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved unanimously by roll-call vote.

Minutes taken by Ms. Burrows, edited by Ms. Osman.