



Commission on Disabilities

Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

10:00 am

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

Present:

Members, Joan Burrows, Lisa Franklin (co-chair), Franny Osman
Melissa Wingfield.

Staff, Austin Cyganiewicz.

Visitors, John G., Paul B.

Select Board Liaison, Jim Snyder-Grant.

Began meeting 10:11 pm.

Citizens' concerns

- 1- Elevator not working at Acton Medical (again) and no plans for a good solution. The people are great BUT do not know how to handle wheelchairs. Should we offer help again thought our help was not accepted easily in the past
- 2- A person renting on privately owned property on Route 2A says the walkways are too narrow and are often flooded or icy. Need AAB - with pictures. We need landlords to do better with disability issues - form a group?
- 3- Resident Virginia L. reports that the walk from the parking lot to the Senior and Social Service Center is long and has

insufficient railings and rest areas, a problem for people with a walker, cane or other mobility issues. Until this issue is resolved, users of the Senior and Social Service Center may call ahead and ask someone to come out to help them navigate to the door.

Town Meeting, Hand-held voting devices

The Town apparently made a decision not to use hand-held voting devices because of COVID-related concerns. We discussed this and decided that Franny would write a letter and Jim Snyder-Grant would follow up.

Human Services Committee

Austin described the new Human Services Committee that is forming. The Committee is looking for a member of COD to join. Franny moved, Joan seconded, that we send a representative to this committee. We voted 3-0 to approve.

Use of Parking Ticket money

Concord COD uses money from handicapped parking fines to help individuals in town. Do we want to do that? Right now we do not choose to get any money from parking tickets. Joan made a motion, Lisa seconded, that we will not use the money. Passed 3-0.

Review of Minutes

Feb. minutes – Lisa moved we approve, Joan seconded, Voted to approve 3-0.

Teen volunteers using Kids on the Block Puppets

Joan has another volunteer to help the Commission. Puppets could be used over the summer, around town, to chat and give out info as requested...at the ice cream shop or playgrounds. Franny moved to approve this plan, Joan seconded, 3-0 yes.

River St. Park support letter

Bettina Abe of Natural Resources wrote for funds to help with the public park on River St. which we heard about at a previous meeting. She asked for COD to write a support letter for this grant application. We approved the letter verbally.

Discussion of Town Meeting Warrant Articles

We discussed articles for Town Meeting including electric vehicle charging, sidewalk construction, commuter lot maintenance, charging for bags, accessory dwelling unit zoning changes, housing authority bidding process.

We voted to support the following articles:

Accessory Dwelling Units, Sidewalks if necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

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.