



## **Commission on Disabilities**

### Minutes

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

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

**Meeting opened at 10:00 am.**

#### **Regular Business:**

**Minutes** We voted 5-0 to approve the April 19, 2022 minutes.

#### **New business:**

**Durable equipment** – Discussion of the need to support groups who refurbish equipment and give it to those in need.

There is a **school event this month for prospective volunteers** in organizations, where COD was included. The school then sends the list of students interested in volunteering with COD.

**Mention of issues at housing developments** such as bikes left blocking entrances and charging spots needed. E -bikes are an experimental program being rolled out by the state. Acton has agreed to be part of it. the Housing Authority was asked to host one of the charging stations at Windsor green. Lisa had some concerns about problems in other towns using other bicycle programs, and wanted the Acton Housing Authority to carefully consider issues facing other towns before they give permission.

**Discussion of a resident's difficulty getting from car to Senior Center at 30 Sudbury Rd.** As the building is privately owned, the issue should be brought up to the owner. Perhaps more HP spots are needed. There is public transit available to the building but it was acknowledged that some people want to drive. There was a suggestion that the COD write to the building's owner, but some objected. All voted "Yes" 5-0 that Franny would write a note to the Council on Aging to find solutions

**Adaptive Bike Rental Opening Day May 28<sup>th</sup> at NARA park.** Leslie will be there and Lisa offered to attend also. At first there will be no time limits - no reservation. Issues will be worked out as they occur regarding reservations, time etc. There was discussion of the difficulty of no time limits on this first day as multiple visitors might come and not be able to see or try the new bikes. Austin is looking for an on-line system to make reservations, with time usage noted. It was suggested to check with other bike organizations to see how it is done. Leslie is working with Melissa Rier, Recreation Dept. The new Sports Pavilion has a snack bar and might be a good place for the bikes. NARA's phone number might be good to have on the bikes.

**Town Meeting tonight:** Zoning and a citizen petition of interest. Good crowd last night and room to be separated (for COVID reasons) if wished.

**Discussion of Housing Rehab Trust issue for tonight's Town Meeting.** More housing could be found if condos were purchased or rented and rehabbed if needed, so we could have more affordable housing in Acton. A 5-0 in favor of speaking tonight on the issue. Leslie will speak.

**Welcome Wagon and the United Way do not have our information to pass out.** Leslie will follow up.

**Lisa asked about the Kids on the Block Puppets.** Joan will re-contact the students and ask them to spread the word to other potential volunteers. Leslie and Franny are going to look for leftover CoD brochures from last Oktoberfest to use with Puppet events around town this summer. If necessary, we will print more.

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.