



## Commission on Disabilities

### Minutes

Tuesday, August 16, 2022, 10:00 am

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

#### Attending:

Members: Franny Osman, Lisa Franklin (co-chair), Peshia Kokis (co-chair), Joan Burrows, Leslie Johnson (later).

Associate member: Melissa Wingfield;

Select Board Liaison: Jim Snyder-Grant

Town Manager's office: Austin Cyganiewicz

Visitors: Akshay (ABRHS student), Paul, Nancy.

#### Announcements:

Both Nancy C. and Franny O. invited members over for **social events**.

Both **upcoming Transportation Advisory Committee meetings** will focus on our shuttle services: August 26, they will review the CAT Bus. On September 23, they will describe all the services to the public. Reminder to invite Ms. Weinberger who had expressed interest.

#### Notes:

Lisa and Peshia will have a meeting with **Acton Medical** CEO Dr. Deborah Kovacs, regarding Acton Medical's accessibility.

There is a Town **Renters' Hot Line** now for problems (as on 2A). Main number 978 929 6600 and ask for Kristin Alexander.

Austin Cyganiewicz and Sharon Mercurio are working on more rides to the Registry of Motor Vehicles. They have set aside Wednesday 9-11 for seniors. The Town will be publicizing this service. A COD member commented that even more trips might be needed.

Austin: Acton is hiring a **new Diversity and Equity Director**. Peshia wants to see a Jewish representative in the Town's DEI work.

We had **money left in our account** \$1,802, at the end of fiscal year 2022 which we “lost” as it gets returned to Free Cash.

Lisa wants to form a **sub-committee to work on the adaptive bike issues**, but can only have two members as our group is now limited to 5 full members so quorum is at three.

Former chair Nancy Corcoran is on the Recreation Dept. and would like to help. Lisa made a motion that we **form a subcommittee. All in favor 5-0**. Lisa proposed we use an online bulletin board for information sharing. Franny made a motion. Lisa seconded. **All in favor 5-0**.

Nancy mentioned the value of the **newsletter** Marion Maxwell puts out for seniors and “pre-seniors” and suggested we could do one. Lisa said no - it was too labor intensive. Joan said she had mentioned writing one over many years and the commission had one in the early years which was very well received locally and by other commissions. If someone will set it up on the computer, Joan will put it together. It is just an update of what we are all doing- letting others know, hopefully gaining interest and help as needed.

There is no Octoberfest in West Acton this year, due to Gardner field being worked on and not completed. **There will be a "Block Party" 10-2 Saturday September 10** in Kelley’s Corner and the COD is offered a table for puppets, handouts, etc. Information on Town website.

As to **Senior Center question from a citizen for better walking conditions**, there seems to be little that can be done and safety was seriously considered when the parking lot was designed. One possibility would be adding one more bench, Franny will write a letter to the complainant and the Senior Center.

**July minutes** - Lisa moved and Pesha seconded to approve. All in favor 5-0.

**Leslie would like in-person meetings** again. She misses them. Joan had Austin confirm that there is Zoom in all public meeting rooms so in-person hybrid with Zoom is possible.

**Meeting adjourned** 11:55

Notes submitted by Joan, edited by Franny.

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.

Minutes submitted by Joan Burrows, edited into template by  
Franny Osman