

**Town of Acton
Commission on Disability
Minutes
June 9, 2011
Acton Town Hall, Room 204
7:00 pm**

Members Present: Danny Factor, Lisa Franklin, Chair, and Joy Kohout and Brenda Viola, Secretary.

Guests: Janet Adachi, BOS Liaison and Wen Li.

The Meeting was called to order by Chair, Lisa Franklin at 7:10 pm.

Minutes from April 14th and May 25th were approved with corrections. No meeting was held on May 12th due to lack of quorum.

Topics:

Diversity Issues within community of PWD: Tabled.

SPED PAC feedback and Dr. Mills Letter, strategy and ideas:

- Professional development for all teachers concerning special needs
Courses are offered by the Federation for Children with Special Needs
Budgeting money for these courses
- Universally designed textbooks, have been ordered
- “Day in a Life as Principal” done by a special needs student
- Physical barriers
- Mental health issues
Address sleep, homework, stress, bullying (speak with Doug Halley, too)
Collaborate with the Acton Coalition for Healthy Youth
- SPED PAC is redesigning their website
Will have information on each disability with resources
- More funding for Special Education, counseling and more teachers
- Support for College Fair
- SPED student internship
- Invite Dr. Mills to one of our meetings. To be done in the letter.
- Can the COD distribute information in the schools?
- The ADA is discussed in social studies. Could this be a good time for the COD to visit?
- Can the BCIL get involved?

Dining Guide: Brenda will get the list of restaurants and their owners from the Public Health Department.

Town Meeting concerns for Mr. Mackenzie: Lisa spoke with Don Mackenzie, Town Moderator about accessibility at the town meetings. Lisa discussed issues such as,

standing up for all-in-favor, difficulty getting to microphone, translating in ASL, closed captioning (CART), alternatives to raising hands and difficulties for those with low voices. Don will speak to the League of Women Voters. Lisa gave him a list.

Caouette-Simeone Conservation Land and Bruce Freeman Bike Trail: Brenda presented an overview of the meeting she attended on May 16th. Input was given to the committee concerning handicapped parking, accessible routes and road construction materials to the bike trail. There has been no final decision that the land will be used as a parking lot for the bike trail. Next meeting is Monday, June 13th 7-9 pm, Town Hall, Room 204.

For The Record:

MGL Chapter 40 (use of HP fines for COD), HD 646(local temporary HP placards), HD 946 (definition of PCA): Lisa and Danny will follow up.

New ADA Regulations on Service Animals: The regulations for Service Animals have been updated. The following is a summary of the revision. Only dogs are recognized as service animals. A service animal is a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. Service animals are allowed in all areas where members of the public are allowed to go. The animal must be under control at all times. When it is not obvious what service animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Businesses may ask, is the dog a service animal required because of a disability, and what task has the dog been trained to perform. They cannot ask about the person's disability or the dog's training documentation.

Variance Applications and new public process (DocuShare): Brenda sent letters via email to AAB for Exchange Hall and Women's Club hearings on Monday, June 6th. DocuShare is the new public process for storing and posting variance documents. Arrangements need to be made with Frank about putting them on DocuShare.

Committee Connections with the COD:

Mike Gowing, Chair, BOS has asked which committees we would like to have connections with. These are the ones: Health Department, Recreation Department, Council on Aging, Economic Development Committee, Sidewalk Committee, Planning Board, and 2020. Mike is thinking of creating a quarterly meeting with the committee chairs.

Acton Nursing In-Service and Information: Tabled.

Summer Meetings: Agreed to have meetings in July and August.

West Acton Parking Space: We will need to contact Cory York, Town Engineer, Director of Public Works to discuss placement of handicapped parking space.

Expenditure: Approved expenditure for Lisa to purchase 6 plastic pamphlet holders. These are to be used to distribute COD brochures. Two are slotted for the Acton Pharmacy and Citizen's Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Viola, Secretary