

**Town of Acton
Commission on Disability
Minutes
July 14, 2011
Acton Town Hall, Room 204
7:00 pm**

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

Associate Member: John Brako

Guests: Frank Ramsbottom, Building Commissioner, Nadia Franciscono; Carol Reich and Lourdnie Burns, Nursing graduate students from Regis College; Carolyn Kilpatrick, Trustee and Maureen McHugh, President of the Acton Women's Club.

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Lisa Franklin at 7:00 pm.

Documents:

Acton Women's Club Proposal to AAB in response to Time Variance. To be placed on Docushare.

Minutes from June 9th were approved with corrections.

For The Record:

Miracle League Field: The Recreation Department is building a special field at NARA Park. **Playground at the Memorial Library:** Kathy has a lot of interest to re-do the playground. She is going to research universal designs.

COD Member List: It will be updated and distributed to members by email.

Acton Resource List: List was distributed to members.

HB 2183 (COD use of HP parking violation fees): Tabled until September meeting.

ABFM (Acton-Boxboro Farmer's Market) takes SNAP (Food Stamps)

AAB Hearing for Exchange Hall on July 25th at 4:00 pm

Minute Van: Lisa wrote a letter of support to the BOS. Approved and accepted unanimously.

Topics:

Follow up on Accessibility at Tailgator's Grille, Midas, Pedal Power, Savoury Lane, Sachem Lane, Sorrentos' Plaza.:

Tailgator's Grille and Pedal Power Plaza: Frank has the name of the plaza owner. Several accessibility issues and barriers are present: There are no Van accessible spaces, no HP parking signage, no marked access aisles, Pedal Power's bike merchandise blocking curb cuts, and cigarette disposal trash can and benches blocking sidewalk. Frank will contact the plaza owner. Danny will follow up with Frank in the beginning of September. Update is an agenda item for September meeting.

Midas: Built in early '90's . Unless they do more renovations, the accessibility issues have to wait before they are expected to make those changes. However if they do re-

stripe the parking lot then we can request the HP space be moved. Until then we can continue to ask employees or construction workers not to park in the HP space.

Savoury Lane: The owner tried to fix the pavement from the parking lot to the entrance. The repairs resulted in a steep grade which will have to be fixed. Also, the bathroom changes still need to be done. Frank will follow up with the owner.

Sachem Lane: Tabled.

Sorrento's Plaza: Tabled.

Moodz: Suggestion was made to write a letter from the COD to request an HP space. If in fact 15 cars are illegally parked in the lot, then Moodz is in violation and is required to have an HP space. Another suggestion was made to write a letter to the state of this violation but all felt this may be too premature. First, Frank will find out how many spaces and cars are parked in their lot. Danny will report at our next meeting.

Acton Women's Club:

Guests Carolyn Kilpatrick, Trustee and Maureen McHugh, President of the Acton Women's Club presented their response to the AAB's decision on the time variance. They began by reviewing their Application For Variance (Docushare). Upon the decision of the AAB Board to their application, the Women's Club was requested to submit a timeline to the Board. They presented their short and long term plan. The detailed letter to the AAB will be uploaded on Docushare. Highlights of the letter are as follows:

1. Fix the outside entrance with a raised walkway that will be completed by 2012. Construction to begin next month.
2. A movie camera installed for meetings held on the 2nd floor by 2013. Acton Cable may help them.
3. Continuous handrails installed to the 2nd floor by 2014.
4. Remodeling the existing bathroom to full accessibility by 2015.
5. Widening the kitchen doorway and relocating the door by 2015.
6. Building an addition to include a wheelchair lift and relocation of the accessible bathroom by 2023.

The time variance and resulting timeline stem from financial burdens on the Club. Their plan is to use Community Preservation Act Grant for this upcoming year. We asked if they can apply for the CPA funds in following years. Their response was that this is a time intense process that they could not undergo for the following year. Overall, their goal is to make their building fully accessible. The Women's Club is submitted this letter to the AAB by tomorrow.

We asked how the COD could help. Question was raised if some of COD's money could be used to assist with the renovations.

Joy brought up the problem of lack of HP parking which has been a long standing issue since the Women's Club has no parking lot and limited on street parking. Suggestions were made for valet parking, designated HP space in front of building, use of MinuteVan, and a regular ride system.

Frank, Danny and Lisa will meet (date TBA) to draft comments for AAB in response to Acton Women's Club. All agreed to give power to Lisa and Danny to draft comments to be sent by email to Tom Hopkins at AAB.

Dining Guide: Brenda obtained a list of restaurants from the Health Department. List does not include names of restaurant or property owners. Brenda will get more information.

Letter to Dr. Mills: Danny presented draft of letter. Suggested letter be addressed to Dr. Mills and copied to School Committee.

Acton-Boxboro Farmer's Market: COD table on July 31st. Lisa will contact BCIL, MOD and DPPS (Disabled Person's Protection Services) for updated literature.

Docushare Tutorial: Frank distributed cover sheets to use at Town Hall copiers. He is willing to help anytime we stop by his office. Danny and Wen to meet with Kaitlin Downer for a tutorial in docushare. Frank explained how to view Docushare items via the Town website. Go to: Document Management System, click on Public Meetings, click on COD, and choose a folder.

New Projects: Fire Station, PCA Presentation, Acton Nurse's workshop, resource files9cautionary guidelines, Dunkin Donuts certificate and article. Tabled.

Emergency Evacuation Plans: "Table Top Exercise" on July 26th, Town Hall, room 204.

Goals and Barriers for Committee Chairs: Lisa will send a list by email for comment and additions.

Agenda for Next Meeting: Discussed and made a list of topics for August 11th.

ADA Celebration Trip (next year in Jerusalem with Acton Recreational Department?): Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council Celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the ADA at Dunn Pond State Park in Gardner on July 22nd from 11am to 3pm. Lisa and Danny plan to attend.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Viola, Secretary