

Town of Acton Commission on Disability

Minutes

September 8, 2011

Acton Town Hall, Room 204

7:00 pm

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

Member Absent: Joy Kohout

Guests: Janet Adachi, BOS Liaison

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Lisa Franklin at 7:07 pm.

Minutes from August 11th were accepted with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Janet noted that the Commission's budget for Fiscal Year 2012, which began July 1st is \$1,468.00. Lisa and Brenda recalled that the Town was holding other funds for the Commission's use. Brenda looked back in the minutes from 5-8 and 10-9 of 2008 to confirm that the BOS accepted \$237.47 from the Friends of the Acton Disabled. These funds were placed into the "Commission on Disability" Gift Fund/Account. In 2008, the Gift Fund balance was \$1,286.94. Brenda will find documents supporting use of these funds. Janet will talk with Financial Director Steve Barrett about the Gift Fund.

For The Record:

- In discussing the idea of visiting the firehouse, we felt more people would participate if we called it Firefighter's Appreciation Day. Lisa spoke with the Recreation Dept. who has the ability to advertise such an event.
- Danny responded to a citizen's email looking for an ASL tutor. We feel it is the commission's responsibility, different from other commissions in town, to act as a resource to our citizens.

Topics:

- **Dining Guide:** Brenda reviewed process to begin sending letters of introductions. Brenda to finish list of owners, then list of new and old restaurants to survey. A suggestion was made to say so many complaints about the restaurant in the introduction letter. Further discussion is needed.
- **Oktoberfest:** Held on October 1st from 10am to 4pm in West Acton. Suggestion was made to offer a healthy snack option.
- **2012 Projects:** Janet suggested that the Committee try to set priorities among the many items by using the technique that the BOS used for its own annual goal-setting earlier this year, to set 3 short-term and 3 long-term goals. Under each of the Commission's three primary purposes we selected the following:
- Education: Short and Long Term: Dining Guide
- Communication: Short Term: People With Disabilities Event (ADA Celebration with the Recreation Dept.)
Long Term: Sustainable Community for people with and without disabilities.

Advocacy/Civic: Short and Long Term: Emergency Preparedness Plan

- **HP Spot in West Acton:** Lisa knows a citizen she would like to invite to an upcoming meeting to discuss his suggestions on the placement of the HP Space.
- **Parking Fines Collection and Fee Change:** Janet reported that the Police Chief is waiting for the 90-day appeal period to expire before raising the HP Parking fine to \$100. Janet to verify whether the 90-day period applies to the fine amount, which the Attorney General's office approved, or only to the proposal for local issuance of parking permits, which the AG disapproved.
- **Moodz/Savory Lane/Sorrento's Update:** Danny spoke with owner of Moodz. There are 8 to 15 spaces behind the building. A van accessible HP space is not required. The van accessible spot would take up two parking spaces (HP space and access aisle). The owner says she cannot give up the 2 spaces. Since the spaces on the street in front of the building are restricted to 2 hours, her employees have to park behind the building. She noted that a few of her employees have received tickets for parking on the street. The owner said she would negotiate if the on street parking 2 hour ban was lifted. Further discussion is needed.
- **Dunkin Donuts Award:** Danny spoke with Joy. Joy commented that one employee of Dunkin Donuts had done something twice for her. We agreed that this was not significant enough to warrant an award. A higher standard needs to be met.
- **Discuss Hurricane Irene and info learned: (follow up now with pleas to register or let DPH know).** A citizen had no power for kidney dialysis and needed a generator. The Fire Dept. provided one for them. Another citizen had no power for their oxygen and to refrigerate their insulin, transported the hospital. Question was raised; Does the town have a repository of generators?
Justin Snair is doing a project to create a "needs extra assistance group". He is applying for a grant.
The Disability Policy Consortium Personal Emergency Preparedness Plan Guide needs to include a page with phone numbers and places included in Towns Emergency Plan.
What are PWD looking for in case of an emergency? We should keep an ongoing list.

Danny will write a letter to Lilli Early in the Assistant Town Manager's office, thanking her early action and assistance to people in need during the storm.

- **Officers and Responsibilities:** General discussion of the officer's responsibilities.
Slate was proposed:
Chair: Lisa
Secretary: Danny
Treasurer: Brenda
The Slate was voted on and approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Viola, Secretary