

MINUTES
Acton Commission on Disabilities
February 18, 2014

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Members Present

Steve Baran, Danny Factor, Lisa Franklin,
Madeleine Harvey, Leslie Johnson

Members Absent

Cindy Patton

Associate Members Absent

Wen Li

Guests

Deanne Bonnar

Meeting Called to Order at 9:30 am

Citizen Concerns. We briefly reviewed a situation of an individual who was restricted at home owing to snow and ice on the sidewalk near his home, making it too dangerous for his mobility limitations. His situation was resolved. Lisa mentioned that in general, Acton is very responsive to such issues, and a Person with Disabilities needs to call the Acton Department of Public Works (DPW) explaining they have a disability, and that conditions of town property are creating a barrier to their independence. The DPW usually then makes it a priority to address the problem. We briefly discussed whether it is appropriate for the COD to become involved in these individual situations, and concluded that we should continue to be notified in such instances in order to identify patterns that would then come under our jurisdiction.

Minutes of January 21, 2014 Meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved with corrections.

Board of Selectmen Report. We did not receive a report from our BOS liaison this month.

Announcements.

- Lisa reminded the committee that the Developmental Disabilities Council is holding their Legislative Lobby Day on March 5th from 10:30 to 12:00 at The State House, and that a large turnout is a good way to show support for improving Independent Living and Self-Determination legislation. COD members can attend as private citizens.
- We had word from Wen Li (Associate Member and Treasurer) that her family is planning to move by the end of summer, and she would have to resign from the committee at that time.
- We were reminded that the Commission has an old savings account with \$237.47 remaining in it from the then-existent "Friends of the COD" group, which was granted the power to raise funds and accept gifts on behalf of the committee.
- Danny reported that he and Wen reviewed the number of documents still waiting to be put on docushare. They have decided to make the newer ones a top priority, and then continue to work on older ones. It is agreed that this would be a good project for an outside volunteer to take on.

Town Meeting Access. We unanimously approved that Leslie, Lisa and Deanne would meet shortly to compose the wording for a public reminder of available access at Town Meeting, to be submitted to The Beacon and The Action Unlimited as soon as possible, since the deadline for access requests is March 28th. Danny also moved, and all approved, that Lisa and Deanne would continue to follow through with arrangements with the Town Clerk and the Town Moderator regarding access issues. There was a discussion about the Town's commitment changing to voting without standing. We also agreed to not to further discuss this issue until after a review of how this year's meeting went with respect to access.

Calendar for 2014. We reviewed our list of approved objectives and commitments for this year and developed a monthly timeline for when these tasks need to be discussed and/or accomplished. Lisa commented that with regard to our objective of speaking at the Special Needs Parents' Night, Julie Towell of the school's Pupil Services explained that this year's event would be focused primarily on the college planning and application process. As a result, a better venue for an information session on Independent Living might possibly be the Special Education Parents Action Coalition. She will contact Nancy Sherbourne about this and get back to us. Danny agreed to change the wording of the sixth objective to "Explore Needs for Individual Support." We also made assignments for which members will provide snacks over the course of the year. Our 2014 calendar (subject to change) is as follows:

Jan.	Determine 2014 goals (<i>done</i>)
Feb.	Develop 2014 calendar (<i>done as of this meeting</i>)
Mar.	Discuss Town Meeting warrant, press articles
Apr.	Review Town Meeting; discuss new member recruitment
May	Plan annual retreat (include evaluation of 2013 retreat)
June	Annual retreat
	Draft article re anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (to include planning/information gathering re individual needs)
July	Press article
Aug.	Plan Oktoberfest presence/inclusion
Sept.	Meet with clergy re access at houses of worship, COD elections
Oct.	Press article, social event, Oktoberfest
Nov.	Create 2015 calendar (including review of 2014 calendar)
Dec.	Plan Feb. 2015 community event

We also agreed upon food assignments (who will bring snacks) for the remainder of our meetings for 2014. These are as follows:

March	Deanne
April	Mady
May	Leslie
June	Steve
July	Lisa

August	Mady
September	Danny
October	Cindy
November	Steve
December	Leslie

Agenda for Next Meeting.

- Selecting any warrant articles we feel we should publicly comment on at Town Meeting
- Reviewing the COD website (to include comments pulled together from past discussions)

Meeting Adjourned at 11:55 owing to heavy snow.