

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF ACTON**  
**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**  
**JULY 15, 2014**

**RECEIVED**  
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TOWN CLERK  
ACTON

**Members Present:** Steve Baran, Danny Factor, Lisa Franklin, Madeleine Harvey, Cindy Patton

**Associate Members Present:** Leslie Johnson

**Guests:** Franny Osman (Board of Selectmen Liaison), Karen Troy

**Call to order:** 9:31

**Citizen's concern:**

**High school elevators** – Lisa's assistant needed mobility help at summer school and Acton Boxborough Regional High School elevators are shut off during the summer. Lisa contacted the school to take care of it. The commission agreed that we should meet with Supt. Glenn Brand.

**Prospective New Member:** Karen Troy has chronic pain. Retired because of her limitations. Some experience with the ADA as an employer and as an employee. She has a BA in English and MS in Science and Management. She has experience building and using websites.

Franny expressed the idea that there is no reason why we couldn't have three or four associates. It may need to be voted on at a Town Meeting.

**Board of Selectman (BOS) report, updates, and announcements:** BOS meeting did not discuss the nursing agency.

**Update on brochure** – Leslie asked about printing the brochures. She said that she is willing to look at other printers besides Staples. Franny said she would asked the town if they would follow up on it. Lisa said that it was budget time and we should wait until next month before we ask the town. Mady will look into other printers with Leslie's help.

**Announcements:**

Danny has a box of COD materials, mostly paper goods. Danny left it on a chair so that others could store what they want. Steve said that he had room for it.

There is a possible application for a variance coming soon for Nagog Park. Danny spoke with Mark Babadoro (Building Dept) about a possible conflict of interest since Steve Baran lives in Nagog Park. They discussed would it be appropriate for Steve to be involved in a discussion about the variance. Danny thought that COD should go look at the possible variance ahead of time. But the preponderance of the commission felt that he should wait until there was a variance.

Acton Public schools have talked with the Architectural Access Board about their variance request for the lower field. The schools think that this can be done without a variance. Danny will keep the commission informed.

**Minutes from June:** Motion by Cindy that the minutes be accepted as corrected, Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimous.

**Acton Nursing Service:**

The BOS will be discussing the Acton Nursing Service (ANS) at a meeting on Aug 11. At the meeting the Commission on Disabilities (COD) will read a statement featuring the following comments from members of the commission:

- The ANS is a safety service as is the Action Police Department (APD) and the Acton Fire Department (AFD). Acton needs to support such infrastructure.
- Like the APD and the AFD, the ANS is not a business. They are not expected raise revenue.
- Health care is a human right, so anything that makes our health care worse is violating that right as human citizens.
- Let's not go backward. Let's not regress by taking away this funding.
- Twenty percent of people have a disability and baby boomers are starting to reach old age.
- The ANS is an important stopgap between what Medicare (which many disabled and elderly use for health care) will pay and what other insurances will cover. This can cause some people to fall between the cracks. Especially those who need home care.
- A member of the COD needed the ANS home care to become more mobile after surgery.

- The Massachusetts Community First Plan mandates community services. While the Affordable Care Act has reduced the gap in insurance, it has not closed it.
- The continuance of the ANS is an important part of the community, more valuable than other community services.

Leslie and Karen will be putting this into a statement to read before the BOS.

**Debriefing of June Retreat:**

Lisa thinks that we should get more relevant work done.

Steve said it was a joyous occasion.

Danny liked to focus less on our work. Danny suggests that someone bring a Thank You card for Clare Harlow to the next meeting. Franny had a card with her.

Mady thought that Clare was great. There was a good discussion about what we all thought about the concept of disability. She said we needed a longer meeting and, at some other time, a social meeting.

Leslie thought it was great. Nice time to talk about disabilities. The work that we do in meetings is important but we also need time to reflect. Clare's team building was great. Leslie would like us to use the skills during the meetings.

Franny said it was nice to really get to know people. Clare's team building was great. Franny felt very warmed by it.

**August Agenda:**

Brochures

Plan October Fest

Yearly Calendar

Go over objectives and goals

Increasing the number of Associates

Application for Variance for Nagog Woods

Superintendent of Acton Boxborough Schools

Public Housing – should be put on Leslie's list of projects

**Independent Living Philosophy (IL):** (as it relates to group decisions)

Lisa made a motion that when we talk about the disabled we will use the IL philosophy. 2<sup>nd</sup> Danny. IL should speak to community, individual powered, and individual controlled. Using an Independent Philosophy means that individuals make their own decisions, if someone cannot make their own decisions, the decisions are made that are person centered. Vote was unanimous.

**Adjourn:** 11:58

