

MINUTES
TOWN OF ACTON
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
August 19, 2014

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

Associate Members Present: Leslie Johnson

Guests: Franny Osman (Board of Selectmen Liaison) Kaffee Kang, Mark Barbadaro, Dean Charter, Karen Troy

Call to order: 9:34 AM

Citizen's concern: none

Announcements, updates, BOS report:

- The Building Department is moving to 33 Nagog. The office will be closed from Sept. 3 to Sept. 8.
- Mandy spoke to Mary Beth Coyne of the Department of Developmental Disabilities to see if she could come to a meeting to talk to us about Independent Living.
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- Mady said that she sent the Chronicle video about the assessable hiking trails at Crochet Mountain to two members of the Acton Conservation Committee, both of whom expressed interest and think they may be able to incorporate these ideas into trails in Acton.

- Board of Selectman (BOS) heard two site proposals at their last meeting. Lisa gave a COD card to the head of one of the projects.
- The COD needs to thank the town for printing the brochures.
- The COD needs to thank the town for paying for our retreat.
- The Architecture Access Board will review the Town Hall's application for variance on August 25.
- Fanny said that the BOS needs to approve Karen Troy and then she needs to be sworn in.

Minutes from July: Lisa made a motion that the minutes be accepted with corrections, 2nd Danny, Unanimous

Site Visit- Adjourned 10:20: The COD members adjourned in conjunction with a variance application concerning the use of the accessible restroom on the ground floor during construction.

Reconvened 10:45 Variance Review: The COD reconvened to discuss the variance application and deliberate about the Town Hall restroom accessibility. With the accessible restroom on the ground floor being out of service because of construction, the only accessible restrooms would be on the first floor. Lisa was concerned that if everyone was using the restrooms on the first floor, it may not be available for people with disabilities, but if the number of people working at the Town Hall is going down then it may not be a problem. A discussion followed about the construction and the restroom situation.

Danny made a motion that we advise AAB that the variance application should be allowed with two conditions: #1 Dean Charter will send a memo to town staff, asking all staff to use the ground floor south wing restrooms, #2 Signs will be put at the elevators and at the ground floor south wing restrooms, that during construction the handicapped accessible restrooms are upstairs on the first floor. Lisa 2nd, Unanimous

School Superintendent Topic: It has been decided that we want to talk with the superintendent. Danny said that it would be better to meet with him at his office. Franny suggested that we have a meeting somewhere other than his office. We should have specific talking points. Everyone should come up with ideas and bring them to the next meeting. Danny made a motion that we write a letter to Dr. Brand to say that a couple of members of the COD would like to meet with him. 2nd Mady. Unanimous. Danny will draft the letter.

Acton Nursing Service: Cindy went over the Acton Nursing Service (ANS) Review Report. Danny said that the plan is an outrage. The Navigator Program is to help people navigate through the health system. There is a lot of state money for these Navigator programs, which is to catch people falling through the cracks. The Navigator would be only for health needs, not replacing a social worker. Danny said that the town should apply to the state for Navigator funding, but not get rid of anything else. The COD

recommended that Lisa read the COD statement at the next BOS meeting and not memorize it. Lisa wanted to incorporate anecdotal information. The group decided that Lisa could add narrative accounts if she likes. COD will be at the Sept. 8 BOS meeting. Motion by Danny: Lisa should not delete anything from her statement and she can add anecdotal information and any information she wants from Cindy's report. That should make a very strong statement. 2nd Mady. Unanimous.

Review 2014 Goals and Objectives to Date:

2014 – Increase Education and Awareness

We listed the following objectives:

Educate COD about Independent. Living.

Gather information about Transportation.

Educate students about community support independent living and transition.

Danny said he would call the Special Education (SPED) Parent Action Committee (PAC) to see if they were interested in meeting with the COD.

Lisa made a motion to attend a parent night to hand out materials on disabilities. 2nd Danny. Unanimous. After including, in conjunction with the League of Women Voters, the vote was retaken and passed 3 to 2 (Mady and Lisa).

September Agenda:

Elections

Increasing the number of Associates

October Social Event

February Community Event

Access and Transportation

Independent Living

Adjourn: 12:50 PM

Documents on DocuShare

Variance Application for Town Hall Reconstruction

Acton Nursing Services Review

Submitted by Cindy Patton, COD Clerk