

Town of Acton
Commission on Disabilities (COD)

MINUTES
October 21, 2014

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

Members Absent: Cindy Patton

Associate Members Present: Leslie Johnson

Associate Members Absent: Karen Troy

Guests: Mary Beth Coyne (Area Director, Dept. of Developmental Services), Nora McShane (Self-Advocate), Franny Osman (Board of Selectmen Liaison), Noah Wallen (Self-Advocate), Randy Wallen (Parent)

CITIZENS' CONCERNS We discussed a resident's request to Board of Selectmen (BOS) for an audio signal at the traffic lights in front of the train station. Town Manager and head of DPW are looking into it. Danny wants to monitor follow through. Over the years the Commission has heard similar requests for lights all over Acton.

SEPTEMBER MINUTES Approved with corrections.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN (BOS) REPORT The selectmen agreed to recommend the continuation of the Acton Nursing Service (ANS) and to move its funding to the operating budget. Franny still needs to contact Steve and Karen about the letter of support from the COD for her transportation innovations grant.

UPDATES The Architectural Access Board (AAB) approved the variance for 33 Nagog granting some, but not all of our recommendations. They did not feel there was a need to change the men's room, adapt the office space, or adapt the slope of entrance to the building. A good reminder that we do not have the power to pre-determine what the ultimate decision on the variance will be. At the time of this meeting, Danny had not heard from applicants on 470 Mass. Ave. as to whether they wanted to continue with their variance application. Superintendent Glenn Brand Steve, Danny, and Lisa meet with our new regional school superintendent and discussed physical access in the school buildings, the "transition to 22" laws for students in Special Education, and concerns about the effects of stress on students with Special Needs in a highly competitive school system such as Acton-Boxboro. J.D. Head announced that when the school system had to recently buy another school bus, they made sure that it was

wheelchair accessible. J.D. Head, Dr. Brand, And Franny all want to meet to discuss transportation issues with each other.

INDEPENDENT LIVING DISCUSSION Our guests talked about individuals with intellectual disabilities living in the community (at home with parents, in own apartment, and in a group residence) transportation to work, and social life was raised as an important issue. We were also asked to help local businesses see the advantages to hiring people with disabilities(PWD).

ACTON NURSING SERVICE (ANS) We discussed our official opinion on the continuation of the Nursing Service. We agreed to support moving the funding out of the enterprise fund to the general budget. Someone will read our previous statement on this subject, given to the Board of Selectmen, at Town Meeting. We did not decide on who this would be. We also agreed for Lisa to pare down this same statement to highlight the points made and submit it to *The Beacon*.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING We had planned to go over all the warrant articles to see if there were other articles we felt we should weigh in on. The articles were not ready until halfway through our meeting. We agreed that a proposal to change the zoning bylaws to allow drive through windows at pharmacies was definitely an issue for PWD, but Franny didn't have the information needed to answer our questions, and as we voted 2 to 2 on whether or not to support this, (Steve and Danny opposing) we chose not to comment on this article as a group but let each member speak as they chose as individual citizens.

ADJOURNMENT 12:35

DOCUSHARE There were no documents passed out at this meeting. Announcements were e-mailed beforehand, and can be found in our "announcements" folder.

Submitted by Lisa Franklin