

MINUTES
TOWN OF ACTON
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
October 7, 2014
9:30 am, Town Hall, Room 126

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

Associate Members Present: Karen Troy

Associate Members Absent: Leslie Johnson

Guests: Franny Osman (Board of Selectmen Liaison), Mr. Prakash

Call to order: 9:31

Definitions:

Goals: Yearly themes of the three-year strategic plan.

Objectives: Specific statements of what we will be focusing on to achieve the goal. Objectives need to be specific, measurable, actionable, realistic and time driven.

Project: Specific ideas to accomplish the objectives.

Strategic Plan: Our three-year plan. (2013, 2014, 2015)

This year's Goal:

Education and awareness was the goal for 2014.

The 2015 goal is to advocate for inclusion and disability rights.

Objectives for 2015:

1. Evaluate and assess variance requests to submit comments to the AAB; develop process for monitoring existing variances.
2. Work with other COD's on state legislative advocacy in the area of transportation, housing, income, employment and health care.
3. Working with other town groups to develop mechanism for insuring inclusion and honoring the rights of people with disabilities.

4. Identify challenges and work with residents to develop solutions in the areas of transportation, housing, income, employment and health care.
5. Monitor ourselves to ensure that we are addressing the full spectrum of disabilities including the underserved, invisible disabilities and chronic illnesses.

Projects for 2015:

Additions to the list of projects:

1. To teach a course on advocacy using disability rights legislation and their goals.
2. Developing a website as an advocacy tool.
3. Designing a workshop (forum) or warrant article on the issues of housing among people with disabilities in Acton.
4. Designing a workshop (forum) or warrant article on the issues of poverty among people with disabilities in Acton.

Advocacy is the support of individuals or joining with them to support causes or positions.

We discussed the project list and decided which projects addressed advocacy. We found ten projects.

We then decided on the three projects that we want to do for 2015. We will be using the January to December calendar.

1. Develop a Welcome packet that can be given to realtors and new residents of Acton.
2. Invite clergy from houses of worship to a discussion on physical and attitudinal access for people with disabilities to religious worship.
3. Form a puppet troupe for the Kids on the Block program.

Lisa made a motion to accept the projects. 2nd Steve, Yeah 4, Nay 1 (Danny)

Adjourn: 12:30 pm