

Minutes
Town of Acton
Commission on Disabilities

April 21, 2015

9:30 am, Town Hall, Room 126

Members Present: Madeleine Harvey, Cindy Patton, Lisa Franklin

Member Absent: Danny Factor

Associate Members Present: Leslie Johnson, Karen Troy (Karen had to leave early.)

Guest: Kevin Antonelli

Call to Order: 9:30 am

Citizens' Concerns: A neighbor contacted Lisa to find out if the COD could research and write a grant to have accessible washers and dryers installed at Windsor Green. The neighbor also thinks that the Resource Fairs should be brought to each housing development. After a short discussion, these requests were put on the to-do-list.

Updates: There will be a Housing Forum in May. The forum is to see where more housing should be located in Acton. Lisa has started the welcome brochures. She is getting all of the material together and figuring out what sections we need.

Announcements: The special meeting is May 13 to discuss the self-education topic of Independent Living.

Board of Selectmen's report: None

March Minutes: The minutes were accepted as written.

Resource Fair: logistics, final details and updates:

- Andrea Ristine (Municipal Properties) will have Dayle or Chris there to set up tables and chairs.
- Rotation at the COD table and floaters were assigned.
Mady will do the first hour, Cindy will do the second hour and Karen the third hour.
Lisa will float 1st, Kevin will be the floater for the third hour. Lisa said that floaters should be greeters and ask if the person is a registered voter.
- Parking for the handicapped (HP) in the first row. Kevin will oversee parking.
- The commission should have all of the handouts from all of the organizations at the fair. Lisa will do this.

- We need a list of fair organizations. Cindy will increase the font and add the logo from Leslie. Cindy will make copies.
- Roche Bros will deliver the food. Karen will deliver the coffee.
- We have the COD brochures, the banner and name tags for participants. Kevin will do on site publicity (hanging a flyer in the entry way of the Town Hall).

Town Meeting Assessment: Don McKenzie is still asking for a standing vote. Danny feels that we should talk about this over the summer. There was a discussion on what to do with the sheets (desire for on screen captioning) obtained at the Town Meeting. Danny thinks we should contact the signers to see if they are hearing disabled. Lisa and Karen thought that this would be intrusive. Karen will bring the sheets to the town hall and put them in the file cabinet. Danny also said that the town should look into using electronic voting. He said that this has to happen sooner or later in the State and it might as well start in Acton. Lisa would like to use the empty auditorium to test out the size of cards and colors. There was concern that Special Education was being represented as the reason for the increase in the school budget. Pupil services at the Acton-Boxborough Schools asked Danny for a meeting in his position as a member of the COD. If Danny is going to have a meeting, we, the COD, should be able to pick out talking points. This could be a discussion at the retreat.

Remote Access: Remote access is now legal for COD meetings. It cannot be used to make a quorum. When it is used there must be a roll call vote. Lisa thinks that we should have a vote on remote access. There was a discussion about whether it should be on a case by case basis, or should it be only for disability or illness getting in the way of attending the meeting. We have the technology to do this. The COD does not need the town's permission. Mady made a motion that the COD can use remote access when necessary. Lisa 2nd. Unanimous.

Progress Chart Update: Karen has updated the progress chart. When you want to add something to the chart, please go through Karen.

Retreat Details: The retreat will be held on June 9th from 9 am-3 pm. Lisa has her common room reserved. What are ideas for the retreat? Lisa's ideas are to cover perfection and ableism and valuing the characteristic of people without disabilities more than the views of people with disabilities. We need to talk about managing workload to prevent burnout. Karen may be able to lead us in a meditation. This might be a good time to talk about Steve's commemoration. We need to ask Bernice if there is someplace in Acton that meant a lot to Steve. The retreat would be a good time to have a discussion about changing the chairperson. We should also look at the vision of the COD. The nomenclature for people with disabilities would also be a possible discussion.

May Agenda:

Resource Fair assessment

Spending money for more brochures

Pamphlets about Reporting and Writing on People with Disabilities

Update by Danny on meeting with Acton Pupil Services.

Balancing our workload: There will be no meeting in July. We will set the August agenda at the June meeting.

Steve Baran commemoration ideas: To be done at the retreat.

Adjourn: 11:50