

Minutes
Town of Acton
Commission on Disabilities
December 15, 2015
9:30 am, Town Hall, Room 126

Members Present: Madeleine Harvey, Cindy Patton, Lisa Franklin (arrived at 11:00 am), and Danny Factor

Member Absent: Nancy Corcoran

Associate Members Present: Leslie Johnson, Joan Burrows (arrived at 11:00 am)

Guest: Franny Osman (Board of Selectmen (BOS) liaison) (arrived at 11:32 am), Kevin Antonelli

Call to Order: 9:34 am

Citizens' Concern: None

Announcements:

1. The MOD (Mass Office on Disabilities) conference call will be on Dec 17. Danny and Mady will monitor the call.
2. Mark Hald got a request to update the COD website about careers for people with disabilities.
3. Should the town of Sharon's resources be added to the website? Leslie said that if they are on our website we need to keep it up to date. Leslie suggested that we include the Disability Index on the website. Cindy made a motion to have the Disability Index website (disabilityinfo.org) from the State on the COD website. Mady 2nd, 2 for, 1 abstained. We will talk about Sharon's Resource List when Lisa is here. Mady thinks that the more resources we have available the better. Mady will talk to Mark Hald.
4. Erik (a worker at Donelan's) had a problem with the CAT (Cross Acton Transit). It didn't come for over an hour. He had to walk home. Mady talked to Franny and Doug Halley. As far as we know this only happened once.
5. Darcy Heller of Mass ARC (Association of Retarded Citizens) talked to Charlie Aaronson about commission positions for the COD. He explained that there were no positions at the moment. Mady wrote back to her saying that she would keep her information on file. Kevin asked if they might be interested in volunteering for the COD. We need to sell the fact that volunteering is as important as having a position on the commission. Mady made a motion that Kevin write a testimonial for the website. Danny 2nd, Unanimous.

Board of Selectmen's (BOS) report: None

Review of November 17th minutes: Mady made a motion to accept the November 17 minutes with corrections. Danny 2nd, Unanimous.

Updates:

- **Acton-Boxborough Schools (ABS):** Danny discussed his meeting with Frank Ramsbottom (Head Building Inspector). After the Douglas school, Danny said that the Administration Building should be the next one to have a site visit. There is no vertical access to bottom floor. Danny will try to get JD Head to schedule a site visit in January. The school that Frank thinks should be next is the High School. There are a few lifts over staircases. A student may have to go up two lifts to get to class. Cindy would like to see the pool area.
- **33 Nagog Park:** Danny made a proposal that we send a letter to the town to state where the COD stands on this. We will be scheduling a site visit in the new year. Frank Ramsbottom was interested in this site visit. Danny spoke to Kristen Alexander (liaison for architects and town). Danny distributed the letter that he will send to the town after the next site visit if the problems with the restrooms and front entrance have not been changed to meet the standard. Mady made a motion for Danny to send the letter; it will be sent as an e-mail to the town. 2nd, unanimous
- **Town Meeting Accessibility:** Danny will send the facts to everyone at the first meeting on Accessibility for Town Meeting. Lisa had a problem reading the captioning. The hope is to have electronic voting for the spring Town Meeting. Danny will run the e-mail by Cindy first. Mady made a motion that Cindy and Danny can make contact with any candidates for Moderator to discuss COD's concerns about Town Meeting. Danny 2nd, 3 for, 1 against.
- **Teamworks:** Michael Hamilton sent plans to Frank Ramsbottom for the new ramp, but they need more work. If the plan can't be revised, Frank suggested that they ask for a time variance. Mr. Hamilton doesn't think the rest of the property needs a site visit. He was saying that it might take until April for the ramp to be built.
- **Municipal properties/veteran's affairs building accessibility:** Danny will talk to Frank Ramsbottom about the need for a site visit.
- **Automatic doors in public buildings:** Frank Ramsbottom talked to Mark Hald about Kevin's suggestion to put automatic doors on the Town Hall and Public Safety Building. Mr. Hald has arranged to put automatic doors on both buildings. They may be in by July 2016.
- **Welcome Kit:** Leslie said that they have made ten categories. She has made an Excel chart for the information and cover page. A disclaimer should be added that the information is self-reported and not approved by the COD. Is there a time period when we will post them? How will this information be disseminated? Lisa said that we should put it on the website, post it in town hall and distribute it at town meeting.
- **Banner over Route 27 publicizing COD:** Mady found out that the banner would cost \$720. Cindy suggested we wait until April to see if we have the money in the treasury.

- **CAT bus:** Why isn't it wheelchair accessible? Motion by Mady that Danny will write a letter to the Transportation Advisory Committee, Franny and Doug Halley. 2nd Danny, Unanimous.
- **Kids on the Block (KOB):** Cindy is arranging for a meeting with the Junior High principal in January.

Final Determination of 2016 Objectives:

By numbers, #1- Support individuals and families dealing with mental illness through meeting with stakeholders and supporting an informational presentation and #4 -Raise the awareness of Acton youth about people with disabilities through the Kids on the Block program, received the most votes. Lisa moves that we do #1 and #4. Cindy 2nd, 3 for, 1 abstained. We will still be working on all the objectives.

CPA Funding questions from Peter Berry as they relate to COD: Peter Berry asked the COD to state what funding of the Community Preservation Act was related to the COD's work. These funds were used for accessibility issues in the: Women's Club, bog boardwalk, an accessible Porta potty for the Arboretum, Arboretum parking lot paving, and Exchange Hall. Danny and Lisa will work together on an email to give this information to Mr. Berry.

COD Handbook Feedback: Danny needs to work on the COD History. Cindy said the handbook was great, but was concerned about part of section 3 dealing with the COD bylaws that needed to be retyped. Cindy and Kevin will retype bylaws by the January meeting. Lisa stated that under our history some of the original papers are hard to read. Lisa has the originals but they are not electronic. Lisa will try to get the originals to Lisa Tomyl (assistant to the Town Manager) to see if she can scan the originals into the computer system. Leslie thanked Mady and Danny for doing such a good job. Lisa would like us to follow up on getting more copies of Mass Disabilities Laws and that the inventory needs to be updated. The MOD doesn't have any more copies of this booklet. They are revising its contents at this time. We need a volunteer to update our inventory. Cindy and Joan will look into updating the inventory.

Set Agenda for January:

Updates: AB Schools, Town Meeting access, 33 Nagog, Teamworks, Municipal Properties, Welcome Packet, KOB, CAT bus.

Objectives Breakdown

Master monthly calendar for 2016: After we looked at the 2015 Master Calendar we made the 2016 Master Calendar.

COD Publicity: Joan volunteered to work with the local papers to put in articles about the COD's activities. Lisa made a motion that Joan should be delegated to work with the Beacon and Action Unlimited about having a regular report in Community Update of the commission's activities with photos when available. Danny 2nd, Unanimous.

Adjourn: 12:29 pm

Docushare:

Possible Objectives for 2016

E-mail to Town about 33 Nagog

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Patton (secretary)