

Andover Commission on Disability  
Wednesday January 26, 2022, at 6:30 PM  
Virtual Meeting Andover TV

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**Call to Order:** Co-Chair Justin Coppola called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll call: Co-Chair Kathleen Dolan, Y; Katherine Ananis, Y; David Kahan, Y; Jemma Lambert, Y; Eileen Reilly, Y; Stephen Surette, Y; Rebecca Schnopp, Y; Justin Coppola, Y; Judy Wakefield joined the meeting a few minutes later.

Also Present: Janet Nicosia, Town ADA Coordinator and Facilities Director, Molly Bicking, Council on Aging Liaison, Wess Murphy, Executive Director, Andover Community Access and Media.

**Guest Speaker:**

Justin introduced Wess Murphy, Executive Director at Andover TV. Wess has worked for over 20 years for the Town of Andover as a resource for media delivery and education in the community. Each year his office records and broadcasts hundreds of town meetings and special events. The TV studio is located in the High School, and the play-back systems are in the school offices.

Wess gave an overview of two initiatives, the first is “video on demand” which began in March/April of 2021 and can be accessed from [andovertv.org/videoarchive](http://andovertv.org/videoarchive). This site lists the various categories of town meetings that have been recorded. Instructions for closed captioning options are on the main page and activated by clicking on the dots on the bottom right-hand corner of a page. Wess provided a screen share of this section of the web site and described the steps to access closed captioning.

The other initiative is “closed captioning during live meetings”. These livestreams involve the three public access channels-Education Livestream, Comcast 99, and Verizon 43.

Kathleen asked how an Andover citizen might get help with accessing closed captioning, and Wess responded that help is available and to contact him. His email address is [wmurphy@andovertv.org](mailto:wmurphy@andovertv.org).

Eileen asked whether this ACOD meeting was close captioned. Wess explained that since it not being streamed live, it will be up-loaded and can be played back with closed captioning. Justin asked whether closed captioning would also be an option during town meeting.

Live-streaming with closed captioned capacity is anticipated to be available on a projector at town meeting and from home on public access TV.

Wess noted that although Comcast does not have closed captioning yet, due to the need for new equipment upgrades and technology, the plan is to enable both Comcast and Verizon channels to have closed captioning at the same time.

**Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved by Stephen, seconded by Eileen and voted 9-0 to approve the minutes of December 29, 2021.

Roll call:

Kathleen, Y; Katherine, Y; David, Y; Eileen, Y; Jemma, Y; Judy, Y; Stephen, Y; Rebecca, Y; Justin, Y;

### **Old Business:**

#### **Hearing Assistive Technology:**

Eileen gave a brief update noting that various listening devices such as smart phones and the like should only require a one- time log in for use in hearing assistive rooms and this issue is being looked to prevent having to log in multiple times. The iPads at the Sr. Center have been wiped clean but are not working yet. The goal is to have these devices for amplifying sound ready for town meeting.

#### **Accessible Shawsheen River Master Plan:**

Justin attended a meeting last night on the Master Plan for the Shawsheen River. The stated purpose of this Master Plan is to collect and present existing and newly acquired information about the river and its relationship to the Town. Trish has volunteered to attend these meetings going forward on behalf of ACOD and provide updates. Ellen Townson will also be involved as the Conservation Commission liaison.

Justin asked the commission whether anyone had ideas on what people with disabilities might need as this Master Plan is being developed. He encouraged members to “think big” as there are opportunities for things such as a park with a disability area, training, or classes on a variety of outdoor, recreational, or environmental areas. Jemma encouraged ACOD input and noted that classes and training could also include access on the water such as boating, as well as access within park areas. There will likely be partnering with other groups such as recreation, youth services, trails, and others going forward. Justin urged members to visit the [andoverma.org/1023/Shawsheen-River-Master-Plan](http://andoverma.org/1023/Shawsheen-River-Master-Plan) on the town web site or watch last night’s meeting on Andover TV.

### **New Business:**

#### **Accessible Andover Communications:**

Kathleen gave an overview of an idea for a program to provide information to the public about key ACOD initiatives to be broadcast on Andover TV. She has been in touch with Fred Snell who produces Andover Chronicles about the format and will talk with him after this meeting. Kathleen proposed commission members develop questions and introduce individuals involved with ACOD programs for a 15- minute program. She gave examples such as: Project Lifesaver sponsored by ACOD a number of years ago as an electronic locator system for “wanderers”. This emergency resource should be publicized through-out the town. A commission member and perhaps the Andover Police Department liaison with that program, Officer Robin Cataldo, might make up one session.

A commission member could likewise introduce Ellen Townson to talk about ACOD’s involvement with the Shawsheen River Master Plan, and a third area of public interest might be an introduction to Justin and or Janet to discuss access issues in town. Jemma said that that an emphasis on practical rather than technical issues would probably work best. A fourth subject area could be Disability Services at the Library with Dean Baumeister.

Jemma said that issues around caregiving might also be useful. Kathleen asked whether this sounded like an idea members supported and would be willing to work on and the consensus was that it would

be. Kathleen asked for members to contact her with ideas or roles they would like in producing this show on Andover TV.

Jemma also informed the commission that a warrant would be put forward at town meeting regarding affordable housing models that are cutting edge, attractive, accessible, and designed for high- density housing needs. She will discuss further with ACOD.

**Announcements:**

Justin said there is a Housing Advocacy for people with disabilities meeting January 27, 2022, at 6:30 PM. He also said he will be sending town meeting warrant articles pertaining to disability issues to the commission prior to the February meeting so that members will be prepared to discuss them at that meeting.

**Next (Virtual) meeting:** Scheduled for February 23rd, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

**Adjournment:**

It was moved by David, seconded by Eileen and voted 9-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Roll call:

Kathleen, Y; Katherine, Y; David, Y; Eileen, Y; Jemma, Y; Judy, Y; Stephen, Y; Rebecca, Y; Justin, Y;