

Andover Commission on Disability—August 26, 2020 Commission Meeting

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed the meeting was conducted virtually through WebEx at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Chair Julie Pike, Justin Coppola Sr., Justin Coppola Jr., Kathleen Dolan, Trish Leelman, Virginia McLeod, Eileen Reilly, Jemma Lambert, Steve Surette, David Kahan, Faisal Bashir and Vice Chair of Elder Services, and ACOD liaison Molly Bicking.

Minutes: Steve made a motion to approve the June 24, 2020 minutes and Trish seconded. Unanimously passed.

Old Business – Updates:

Steve had nothing to report regarding spot check updates. Justin Sr. reported that he met with Ellen Townson, about a Shawsheen River access matter, and had another meeting with Julie, Bob Douglas and Team about the Castle Heights Fishing Dock site to prepare for HP parking and permits in that area. Money has already been set aside for this Conservation Department recreation area adjacent to Atria Marland Place, and the project is moving along.

There were no Group reports on ADA, Communication, or Marketing.

Julie announced that there will be two vacancies on the Commission effective September 1, as Judy Wakefield will no longer be on the Commission and Justin Jr. is moving out of town and will not be on the Commission. ***Action Item: Commission members should have potential candidates fill our Talent Bank Forms and submit them to the Town Manager.***

New Business

Jemma reported that construction/renovation of the Robb Center is half-way finished, with the underground area completed and an anticipated opening for Spring of 2021. Progress is being made on developing a mission statement covering protocols and procedures in the event of an emergency. She noted that it is challenging to envision the programming component given the current status of COVID 19, and its impact on nearly all aspects of programming. A survey will be distributed to the community soon, seeking citizen input.

Jemma further noted that the Center will be accessible to people with disabilities, especially with regard to lighting and maneuverability. Trish offered to ask her fellow residents at Andover Commons about any ideas for the renovated center. Eileen and Molly noted that Don Robb was a huge asset to the Center with his various talks and presentations over the years and his participation in the Sunrise Chorus. They suggested that there be an active search to find someone to continue with presentations going forward.

Julie suggested reaching out to the Center for History and Culture as there may be people there willing to give presentations and the like when the Center is up and running. ***Action***

Item: Jemma requested that all members think about what programming you want from the Robb Center and to be ready to discuss ideas at our next meeting.

Jemma noted a model used in Natick outlining procedures for people who have special needs who may need social services in the event of an emergency situation.

Julie mentioned an ACOD letter was sent to the Town Manager which might be useful to Jemma as it pertains to emergency management for people with disabilities. Trish noted that people would need to self- identify their needs. Justin Sr. noted that a Special Needs list exists as part of the 911 System called the Disability Indicator Form and is maintained by the Police Department. Faisal noted the importance of Code Red and the need to prioritize people.

Julie said that people would be prioritized based on their need for assistance in emergency situations and Justin Jr. said that the police department would assist with notifying these individuals in emergencies.

Eileen asked about whether current lists of people with disabilities include all possible categories of disability, as some disabilities are hidden. ***Action Item: Eileen volunteered to help Jemma on this project. Action Item: Jemma will check into the role of the police department in identifying and then notifying individuals in emergency situations.***

Eileen reported that she found an IHCD documentary about the changing reality of disability in America in 2020 to be very useful. She thought it might be a possible focus for an ACOD subcommittee to watch and then to suggest creative ideas to the Commission. Eileen recommended that the commission watch the video: “The Changing Reality of Disability in America 2020” by the Instituted for Human Centered Design (IHCD). Julie noted that the type of outreach Eileen mentioned should be taken on by one of the workgroups to see what other resources and ideas might be useful. ***Action Item: One specific workgroup must step up and volunteer to take this on as a project.***

Transportation Issues continue to be a problem. Justin Sr. mentioned that Paul Materazzo Town Rep on the MVRTA’s Advisory Board may have a broader overview of what is going on and it might be a good idea to reach out to him. The commission agreed that an information session with Mr. Materazzo would be helpful. Follow-up meetings with the ADA component of the MVRTA may also be helpful.

David then asked for information about transit such as MVRTA into Boston and Jemma suggested Julie reach out to Paul Materazzo to see what the latest information is. Justin Jr. noted that restrictions around using public transportation have been a challenge.

In response to a question about the Robb Center provides for transportation, Jemma responded that they have a few handicap vans, and a new one is to arrive soon. They provide a lot of ADA trips and volunteers are also available to drive people to medical appointments. ***Action Item: Julie to invite Paul to our next meeting. Julie also noted that a transportation workgroup should be set up to work on these issues.***

Announcements: Julie announced Town meeting will be Sept 12th at 9:30 AM at the West Middle School. ACOD has an interest in Article 22 which concerns school improvements, including the re-design of the Doherty school elevator and ramp removal which has been a long- standing access issue. Article 24 is of interest as it concerns town office renovations to ensure accessibility. Articles 8 A and D, and 15 are also of interest. ***Action Item: Julie will be publicly supporting these Articles at Town Meeting.***

Adjournment: Steve made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. and Eileen seconded. Unanimously approved.

Next meeting: *September 23, 2020 to be held virtually. 6.30*

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan McKelliget

Andover Commission on Disability Wednesday, August 26, 2020 6:30 PM Virtual Meeting Broadcast by line at www.andovertv.org

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Andover Commission on Disability will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner: Andover TV COMCAST CHANNEL 22 AND VERIZON CHANNEL 45 or stream online at www.andovertv.org.