

## **Andover Commission on Disability—January 27, 2016 Committee Meeting**

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level.

**Present** Co-Chairs Sarah Paterson, and Jen Samaras, Donna Gorzela, Julie Pike, Justin Coppola Jr., Stephen Surette, **Also Present:** Former Chair Justin Coppola Sr.

**Minutes** Stephen made a motion to accept the Minutes of the December 16, 2015 meeting and Julie seconded. Unanimously approved.

### **Old Business—Updates**

- **Spot Checks:** Stephen said that maintenance of pot holes and related road and sidewalk issues is ongoing and greatly helped by the new “hot box” which uses heated hot top which makes the whole process more efficient.
- **Andover Trails accessibility review** – Stephen reported that this review is “on hold” at the moment and he will be in touch with Ellen Townson when appropriate.
- **Updates on Ballardvale Sidewalk issues** – Jen gave an overview of the current situation regarding the Tewksbury street and sidewalk areas leading up to the Spring 2016 Annual Town Meeting. Residents are in the process of collecting the required 200 signatures to get on the warrant article. The proposal would be to have over one half mile of new sidewalks put in connecting 300 hundred homes, businesses, commuter rail, and open space in and around Ballardvale. It is proposed that the sidewalk will be designed to town standards including granite curb and 5 foot width of asphalt with a \$600K plus price tag. Stephen said paving should be done in Spring when the first layer of gravel settles.
- **April 27th regional COD meeting** – Sarah asked the members who will be attending during the day 11 to 2 pm at the Massachusetts School of Law which this group is hosting. It will be accessible with plenty of parking. The ACOD meeting previously scheduled for that evening will be rolled into the day time meeting. *Action Item: Sarah will look into getting catering/delivery of luncheon food, from Frank at the Center at Punchard.*

### **New Business**

- **Andover Community Garden** – Sarah reported that there was a meeting last week about the new community garden which would be located across the street from the compost site on High Plain Road. The Conservation Commission allotted a parcel of that land for this purpose and is still in the process of raising money for a source of irrigation as there is no source of water except for a hydrant across the street. The Center at Punchard is likely to have a role with seed starting and programming building on their past/current gardening experience. Although raised beds may be used in the future, nothing can be installed this year until plans are finalized. Members of the community will be able to rent allotments for personal gardening. *Action Item: ACOD will follow the progress of this initiative as it may be helpful to have this garden available and accessible to the disabled population in the future.*
- **Ongoing website updates** – Sarah proposed giving access to any members who may be interested in assisting with ACOD web site update. *Action Item: Donna agreed to help out and will meet with Dean Baumeister (MHL employee/web site contact to discuss next steps.)*

**Announcements:**

- Sarah mentioned that she recently received a variance request for a galley kitchen in a condo where there was a minor over-lay of a counter. As this was to be a privately owned building, discussion ensued about the process currently in place (if any) for such requests. Justin Sr. and Justin Jr. Mentioned the Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP) typically processes these requests and the community liaison who is Jim Lyons responds to the Architectural Access Board(AAB). Justin Sr. noted that the “expert” is Massachusetts Office of Disability (MOD)
- Sarah also noted the Commission has lost two members (Maddy and Ruth) and for members to think about possible new recruits.

**Adjournment:** At 7:15 p.m. Julie made a motion to adjourn and Justin Jr. seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Next Meeting:** *February 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm*

*Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level*

Respectfully Submitted

Susan McKelliget