

Andover Commission on Disability—August 24, 2016 Committee Meeting

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, August 24, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level.

Present Chair Julie Pike, Stephen Surette, Justin Coppola Jr. Also present: Justin Coppola Sr. (candidate for membership)

Minutes Stephen made a motion to accept the June 22d meeting minutes and Justin Jr. seconded. Unanimously approved.

Old Business – Updates

Spot Checks: Pot Holes and other related road and side walk issues—Stephen reported that numerous handicap ramps have been fixed or are scheduled to be fixed. Julie and Justin Jr. noted that in accordance with practice/procedure, curb crossing tactile pads should be red on Main Street. The others should be yellow.

Updates on Andover Trails accessibility review – Julie reported that Ellen Townson (noted in the June 22d minutes as a volunteer for the Haggetts Pond trail project) is also ACOD's contact person for receipt of previously issued ACOD FY 2016 funds for accessible trail modifications at Haggetts Pond. Ellen plans to attend our September 28th ACOD meeting and provide updates on the trail project.

New Business

Julie distributed "Vacancy Announcement: Andover Commission on Disability" to members and asked that they be distributed as follows: ***Action Item: Justin Jr. will post at the Center at Punchard, Julie will post at South Church, Susan will look into posting at the library.*** There is a vacancy posting at Town Hall. There are currently 5 vacancies on the commission as Donna Gorzela recently resigned from the commission. ***Action Item: Julie will contact Donna to see if she is interested in continuing to maintain ACOD website as a volunteer.***

Projects for the year—Justin Sr. suggested that ACOD is well positioned to make a concerted effort to liaise with other community agencies or groups to better identify needs where ACOD could be involved. Discussion ensued regarding the expertise that various commission members have built over the years within the community such as CAM training for school and other municipal building projects, identifying curb cut and other access issues through our DPW member, lock box projects with our safety center, community gardening with the Center at Punchard, and ADA issues with Ed Ataide over the years. ***Action Item: For next month's meeting each member will think about who to approach to find a project that has a specific need and how ACOD could be involved.***

Announcements:

Julie announced that due to time constraints and the number of active commission members, ACOD will not be participating in **Andover Day** this September.

Julie distributed an email from Donna Gorzela bringing to our attention her neighbors' announcement of a new company she is starting up which is *a special education consulting company called SOAR Commission LLC*. For further information the website is: soarcommission.com. The site has articles on special education and intends to produce news/events information.

Julie also distributed three (3) "snapshots" of 3 DPC (Disability Policy Consortium) issues. These include the following subjects.

- PCA (Personal Care Attendants) working over 40 hours
- Conference November 5th on New England on Disability and Intersectionality. Key note speaker is Heather Watkins a writer, advocate and DPC Board member
- DOJ (Department of Justice) seeking regulatory review on the issue of web accessibility for people with disabilities. Comments due October 7th

There was discussion as to whether or not this information would be the type of thing to be added to ACOD website.

Commission Member Vote– Justin Sr. announced his interest in being a member of the commission. He was a past member of ACOD.

Justin left the room and the commission unanimously voted for Justin Sr. to be a member of ACOD. Action item: Julie will notify the Town Manager for Justin's name to be approved by the Selectmen.

Adjournment: At 8:02 p.m. Steve made a motion to adjourn and Justin Jr. seconded. Unanimously approved.

Next meeting:

September 28, 2016 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Susan McKelliget