

## **Andover Commission on Disability-- November 18, 2015 Committee Meeting**

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 6:35 p.m. in the Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level.

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

**Minutes** Julie made a motion to accept the Minutes of the October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting and Justin Jr. seconded. Unanimously approved.

### **Old Business—Updates**

1. **Spot Checks:** Julie reported that Washington street is not done yet but it is a work in progress. No new pot hole observations.
2. **Collaboration on Andover Trails accessibility review--**Sarah is waiting for a follow-up from Stephen and Ellen Townson and Bob Douglass.
3. **Promo item ordering--**Members mentioned some preferences including cup-holder with foam for hot cups, jar openers, magnet clips, and possibly stylus all with ACOD printed on them. ***Action Item Sarah will cost these items out report back to the commission.***

### **New Business**

1. Sarah and Jen reported on their meeting with new town Manager Andrew Flanagan on Monday. They discussed the need to get a Selectman liaison for ACOD. Also discussion around new ACOD web site and the need to fill a position for ACOD commission. Maddy mentioned a meeting she had with a member from the Alliance for Disability Commissions--and noted this source of communication and support with the potential to affect upcoming legislation.
2. Jen reported that Jeff Dougan of MOD has forwarded emails regarding upcoming disability sessions which commission members are encouraged to attend and reimbursement is paid through W-9 forms. Maddy brought up the question of whether reimbursements on W- 9 forms show up as income. Jen clarified that W-9s merely set up attendees in the vendor system to be reimbursed which is not taxable income. An event for 50 or so attendees is coming up in April and Maddy expressed her preference that such event be substantive, possibly including a speaker(s) rather than a meet and greet event.
3. Jen reported on the construction/paving going on around the Tewksbury street area which has been in the press recently. Residents are concerned with safety as this is a heavily-trafficked area and speed is often an issue. She noted that now there are berms in the area and although residents may call and make requests for lights and sidewalks and the like, town meeting approval for funding is an issue. Maddy suggested that ACOD consider submitting a position paper on the issue. There is a neighborhood committee including Diane and Chris Huntress who are heading up this

warrant article. **Action Item:** *ACOD will review any upcoming warrants on this issue.*

**Announcements:** Maddy talked about a strategy meeting she attended yesterday put on by Rev Up! which is a disability law group dedicated to getting out the disability vote in the Commonwealth. The organization also seeks to educate people on issues in a non-partisan way. For more disability-specific information see : <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleaccessible/accessibleidx.htm> or call 1 800-462-VOTE (8683)

Maddy distributed ACOD information cards (contact forms) for members to hand out as needed. **Action Item:** *Justin will give a box of these cards to the town clerk's office.*

**Adjournment:** At 800p.m. Justin Jr. made a motion to adjourn and Donna seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Next meeting December 16th, 6:30 pm**

***Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level***

Respectfully Submitted

Susan McKelliget