

Andover Commission on Disability

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at p.m. in the Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level.

Present: Co-Chairs Sarah Paterson and Jennifer Samaras, Bernadette Lionetta, Maddy St. Amand, Julie Pike, Donna Gorzega, Justin Coppola Jr., Ruth Rosensweig, and Stephen Surette. **Also Present:** Former Chair Justin Coppola Sr.

Minutes: made a motion to accept the March 2015 minutes, seconded, unanimously approved.

Old Business – Updates

Spot Checks: Stephen gave an update on ongoing pot hole filling and other related road and side walk issues. Residents may call in if they know of pot-holes that need to be filled. The State is in the process of making curb cuts with ramps from North Reading to Wheeler street and from Stop and Shop plaza to Route 495. The town web site will list locations of paving activities.

Website updates: Ruth announced that MHL staff member, Dean Baumeister has drafted an initial draft template for the proposed ACOD website including currently in-use content and photos which will need to be updated. Commission members had a chance to review the web site and agreed it was a great start and expressed appreciation of Dean's efforts. Ruth talked about the current MHL website page on disabilities and noted that rather than re-vising this, it would make sense to just provide a link to the new ACOD site. Commission members would also have access the site in order to update the site as needed. *Action Item: Sarah and Jen will meet with Dean next week and discuss final content and edits to the site.*

Update on Ballardvale Playground--Sarah announced that demolition of this playground started this week, and construction will begin next week. Actual playground equipment installation should be finished before the end of May.

New Business

1. Town manager screening committee--Sarah applied to be on the the committee and the decision as to who will be on the panel will be announced April 30th.
2. Anticipatory report creation--the commission discussed the need to have in place presentation materials for the new Town Manager which describe ADA needs for Andover as well as ACOD's mission and goals. Maddy mentioned

the idea of having ACOD members/emissaries available to present this information in a timely manner. Bernadette mentioned the need to articulate a community outreach piece within the purview of the commission. *Action Item: Members will work together to ensure goals, especially those in the next five years or so, are identified in an “advance report” for the new town manager.*

3. Town Selectman Liaison for the Commission-- ACOD is in line to have a new liaison assigned by the new town manager. Members expressed an interested in sharing our preferences if possible.
4. Curb cut issues, including River Street and Taylor Cove Drive--Justin Sr.talked about a recent townhouse development off River Street and Taylor Cove Drive in Ballardvale . He distributed photos of a sidewalk area which had a “pad” placed in the middle of the sidewalk and a ramp improperly placed in the middle of the block rather than the end of street. The curb cut put in by the developer was not placed properly. Justin Sr. also drew attention to a warrant article regarding new sidewalks on River street. *Action Item: Stephen will check with development owners about these issues and the town will remedy if needed.*
5. Maddy identified key warrant articles in the town meeting report which referenced issues pertinent to the elderly/and or/ disabled community, such as property tax, transportation and housing. She also noted a warrant regarding liquor licensing for proposed outdoor dining at the Andover Village Square site. She noted that ACOD “budget highlights” are blank in the budget. *Action Item: Maddy offered to follow up with Chris Clemente on the outdoor dining license issue.*
6. Budgetary spend down prior to fiscal year end--the commission discussed possible ways to use the current billable budget of \$5291 by June 30th. Justin Sr. mentioned contacting Ed Ataide to see whether there is a need to purchase additional playground equipment in Ballardvale which is ADA compatible. Ruth mentioned the ongoing issue with the back entrance to the library’s door paddle. Sarah mentioned looking into having emergency preparedness kits available to Andover’s disabled and or elderly citizens in the event of an emergency--something she has knowledge of from MEMA and its website. There was general discussion about funding upcoming events such as the September Andover Days table and resources.*Action Item: Sarah will be in touch with Ed Ataide to see if there is unfunded need for town ADA improvements that could be implemented.*
7. Julie reported on a newspaper article about the upcoming Andover Town which noted that requests for sign language, and interpreters would be provided upon request.

Adjournment

Bernadette Made a motion to adjourn and Julie seconded at 8:00p.m.Unanimously passed.

Next meeting: May 27th 6:30 pm
Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget