

Andover Commission on Disability

Meeting Minutes March 25, 2015

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 6:37 p.m. in the Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level.

Present: Co-Chairs Sarah Paterson and Jennifer Samaras, Maddy St. Amand, Julie Pike, Justin Coppola Jr., Ruth Rosensweig, and Stephen Surette. **Also Present:** Jeff Dougan from MOD, Former Chair Justin Coppola Sr. and guests Tom Ciampa and Bob LeClerc

Minutes: Maddy made a motion to accept the February 25, 2015 minutes with the following amendments: *In the MOD report, the letter from MOD director Myra Berloff mentioned the possibility of a change allowing people with disabilities (rather than local disability commissions) to use remote voting such as email to meet quorums for a vote; and in the Ballardvale Playground Update, Sarah, Jennifer and Maddy “attended a meeting of the Historic District Commission for their final approval of the playground renovation plans.” The last sentence of that section should be removed and replaced with “Playground opening is anticipated for this Spring.”* Julie seconded, unanimously approved.

Old Business – Updates

Guest Speaker Jeff Dougan of the MOD opened the meeting by presenting a certificate of achievement to Maddy for her sixteen years of service on the ACOD. Jeff noted that community access training will be held again this year--Salem State University will be holding a session August 18-19 for those interested in attending. He also announced that the new MOD Director is David D’Arcangelo replacing Myra Berloff. MOD will be focused on improving communication channels and increasing the number of disability commissions through-out the state. Jeff mentioned that recent Open Meeting Law regulations are intended to provide guidance for commissions voting and quorums. Justin Jr. mentioned social media for disability issues is not as accessible as it could be, and Jeff responded that some social media including facebook and twitter are currently allowable and it would be better to increase social media avenues to reach people with disabilities.. Maddy asked that Jeff let the Access Board know that ACOD has two co-chairs so that both will receive information.

Spot Checks: Sarah noted that to date, some of the Rte 133 pot holes have been fixed and the street crossing near her is passable as she can now access the traffic light push button to cross. Stephen noted that the Highway department will fix mail boxes damaged by plows and or snow.

Website updates:General discussion followed regarding both the content of and the appropriate hosting site for ACOD information. Jen noted that Ruth sent great updates on the MHL site on library services for people with disabilities but there should also be a general guide for services on a the town site.. Links and cross referencing between town and library needs to be explored. A discussion on model websites among towns was briefly discussed. *Action Item: Jen will check with Wendy Adams about website hosting to find out where the proper site is to be located as well as ongoing maintenance prior to library staff involvement. Ruth will check with the library IT department to determine if library hosting is still an option and the extent of any ongoing maintenance for such site.*

Collaboration with other Andover organizations

Melmark--Jen shared an email from Ellen Kallman, Director of Advancement Melmark New England, thanking the commission for the horticultural vocational program grant given to them last year. The grant will help with expanding raised beds and partnering with a local greenhouse to work with students and adults that are served in their residential program, in addition to an ongoing Peer Mentor program with AHS students.

Announcements

CAM training --Jeff noted that members interested in attending training which enables people to assess building for civil rights, ADA, and access and building code issues, will likely be able to attend training in this area in the fall of 2015. Stephen mentioned notifying the Building Inspector 's office about CAM training for staff/service credits. Maddy asked Jeff for an update on the "static" or "international" versus the "active" logo for people with disabilities. Jeff responded that the ABB requires the existing international logo for compliance.

ACOD file storage--Stephen collected ACOD files from Maddy and brought them to town office storage room.

NILP 30th Annual Legislative Forum--Jen attended this meeting last Friday, which included local legislators and constituents in a forum to discuss what is going on in the local area regarding services for people with disabilities or medical conditions.

News Updates--Julie reported on a March 22, 2015 Tribune article about an upcoming Supreme Court case on whether the ADA requires police to take precautions when trying to arrest armed and violent suspects who are mentally ill. Julie also noted two bills filed by Sen. L'Italien -- on issues relating to creating more opportunities for students with disabilities and addressing the needs of children who struggle with dyslexia.

Ruth contacted Susan Stott of ACT and reported that the proposed Woburn street single level access home will be built after legal issues taken care of.

Adjournment

Maddy made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. and Stephen seconded. Unanimously approved.

Next meeting: April 29th 6:30 pm

Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget