

Meeting Minutes  
Andover Commission on Disability  
February 26, 2014

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, at 6:35 p.m. in the Activity Room of the Memorial Hall Library.

Present: Maddy St.Amand (Acting Chair), Julie Pike, Donna Gorzela, Bernadette Lionetta, Sarah Paterson, Ruth Rosensweig, Jade Perry, Justin Coppola Jr., Stephen Surette.

Also Present: Justin Coppola Sr. (former ACOD Co-Chairperson)

Minutes: The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. Julie made a motion to accept the January 22, 2014 minutes and Stephen seconded; unanimously approved.

### **Old Business / Updates**

- ❖ Check of addresses, phone numbers—Maddy distributed copies of members' information for updates which members provided at the meeting.
- ❖ ACOD bookmarks---Justin Jr. re-designed existing bookmarks to reflect updates which the commission approved. The bookmarks will be printed up for distribution at the town hall, library, and other ACOD or related events.
- ❖ Project Lifesaver—Maddy has not received an update yet from Lt. John Pathiakis but will continue to try to reach him.
- ❖ Lock Box Program—Maddy met with Chief Mike Mansfield for an update on the installation of lock boxes. To date,

twenty-five (25) lock boxes have been installed and twenty-two (22) remain in inventory. **Action Item: Continue to keep communication open with the police department concerning potential fundraising to continue the lockbox program.**

- ❖ Spot Checks—Sarah shared some photos she took of snow banks (from plowing) covering up a traffic pole in the Shawsheen Square intersection. Stephen will look into the problem.
- ❖ Locations for placard abuse—Maddy has spoken with Police Chief Keefe about potential short-term ACOD funding for a few officers to be deployed to targeted areas where there is known placard abuse -- parking in a handicap spot without a placard. The areas which continue to be a problem are the uptown post office handicap spot, a few of the uptown coffee shops, the yogurt shop and the Shawsheen Plaza parking spots. It is anticipated that patrolling of these areas will begin sometime in early March.

### **New Business**

- ❖ New Wheelchair Accessible Logo—Maddy distributed a letter addressed to the town manager requesting a change to the existing disability logo (a symbol of a person in a wheelchair in a sedentary position) which has been in use for 40 years nationally and internationally. The letter writer urges the town to adopt a new logo which features an “action-oriented” image which would be progressive and would dispel the reference to “wheelchair-bound” individuals. Maddy researched the issues surrounding adoption of the new logo and replied in a February 10, 2014 memorandum/position paper to Mr. Stapczynski (see attached). One of the issues Maddy pointed out is that this revised logo was designed by and is “owned” by parties who hold a copyright to the image. Should the logo

ever be adopted nationally or internationally, copyright issues would need to be resolved prior to any one using it. In addition, after discussion with the MA Architectural Access Board, the Board determined that the logo is not acceptable by code. Finally, should these hurdles be cleared there is a substantial cost factor to making such a signage change.

- ❖ Designs for old town hall plaza—Maddy and Justin Jr. attended a recent architects' meeting on the re-design of the plaza outside the front of the old town hall. Maddy distributed the Birchwood Design Group plans-- two proposals for ACOD review and comment. The area under consideration is not large and the goal is to make the area accessible while preserving its historical design. After looking at the plans and some discussion, the three points the commission wanted to note were: Opposition to the plan which included bicycles in the front of the plaza; opposition to sunken levels edged by cement "planters"; and opposition to trees overhanging Main street. Members voiced an interest in maintaining benches for seating as this is also a local bus stop.
  
- ❖ Individual case advocacy—Maddy noted that from time to time Andover residents, who may need assistance with elderly or disability issues, find their way to Maddy as Acting Chair of the ACOD. Maddy led a discussion about how or whether ACOD should assist in coordinating this type of information despite the fact that ACOD is mainly an advisory group, without the mission or resources of an "agency". Members agreed that limited information coordination is an acceptable role for the commission.

### Adjournment

Jade made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Julie seconded and unanimously passed.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 26, 2014, 6:30 pm  
Activity Room, Lower Level, Memorial Hall Library

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget