

Meeting Minutes  
Andover Commission on Disability  
April 30, 2014

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at 6:36 p.m. in the 2d floor of town offices

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Julie Pike, Donna Gorzela, Bernadette Lionetta, Sarah Paterson, Ruth Rosensweig, Justin Coppola Jr., Stephen Surette.

Also Present: Justin Coppola Sr. (former ACOD Chair)

Minutes: Bernadette made a motion to accept the March 26, 2014 minutes and Justin Jr. seconded; unanimously approved.

Old Business / Updates

**Spot checks:** There was a brief discussion on recent road repairs as well as the need to make the public aware of the fine associated with placard abuse (using someone else's placard) which is a \$500 fine compared with a \$250 fine for illegal parking in a handicap space. Commission members were reminded that we agreed to "spot" parking locations where this offense tends to happen in town for the Police Department's use.

New Business

**Outdoor dining permits:** Larossa's – Justin Coppola, Jr. and Senior, completed a site visit with Maddy on 4/24/14 to this eatery which is in the former Butler's Pantry space. She noted the owners' wish to create a handicap accessible outdoor dining courtyard area at the rear of the shop. One of the issues is access to the area which would actually require traveling down an alley which is behind the adjacent clothing shop leading to the outside eating area. Building inspector Chris Clemente and Paul Larossa were present and options were discussed. A deck accessible from the restaurant was approved as feasible, Chris and Justin, Sr. will

consider the slope specifications for the approach at the rear of the building.

**Enclosure for Inspectors' Letters:** Maddy also noted that it is time for the Town's restaurants to reapply for their outdoor dining permits. The Town Clerk and the Building Inspectors will be sending out a notice to applicants and are willing to include a compact enclosure of the relevant ADA specifications. **Action Item:** The Coppola's and Maddy will develop this enclosure ASAP for distribution through the Planning Office.

**Commission Brochure:** The Commission has needed an updated brochure for some time. This is for potential use at street fairs, health fairs, professional meetings and general mailings. **Action Item:** Ruth will take the lead on the content for the brochure; Sarah agreed to assist with editing and Justin, Jr. agreed to assist with layout.

**Bancroft School Site visit:** Justin, Sr. reported that the sidewalks are not completed to get into the building and the elevator will not be available in time for the tentatively scheduled 5/8/14 site visit. While it was suggested by the developers that the ADA inspection could happen in the fall, the commission rejected that concept because the "certificate of occupancy" is due shortly and it implies full compliance. Our site visit must be completed prior to final approval of the building.

We had previously arranged for any members of the Commission to attend the site visit for experience; the appropriate project managers had permitted this and we still intend to complete the project. **Action Item:** Justin, Sr. will pursue a firm date with hopefully enough advance time to adequately notify members' employers. Copies of the most recent ADA Checklist based on ADA Standards for Accessible Design were distributed. It was proposed that members review this packet prior to the site visit. Justin Sr. reiterated the "readability" and "usefulness" of this "ADA Checklist for Readily Achievable Barrier Removal" packet. Chris Becker, or another staff member of the Massachusetts

Office on Disability (MOD) will also participate in the process.

**Action Item:** Members will review packet.

**Town Meeting Warrant Articles**--Maddy distributed a list of warrant articles affecting the disabled population for town meeting and encouraged members to attend. They include Articles 10 s.A; 11 s.D; 14; 17; 27; 28; 29; 34 and 41.

**Action Item:** Members will review; attendance is not mandatory.

**Program Sponsorship** – Discussion about the best use of start-up funding for one-year benefiting the disabled. Bernadette proposed the idea of expanding “My Own Voice” within the New England Treble Chorus. My Own Voice is a group of children with special needs who sing separately from, but within the same program as the Treble Chorus singers. Bernadette noted that there are likely to be at least 17 additional children who could benefit from joining this program, and well over 40, if parents and mentors are counted. Bernadette asked the commission to consider funding outfits for the chorus such as micro-fiber vests with the Treble Chorus of New England logo. 40 vests at \$35/ea would be \$1400. An additional 40 bow ties at \$5 each would come to \$200. This wardrobe would be available for their various singing engagements.

In addition, Bernadette asked the commission to consider funding the cost of a coach/bus to take the “My Own Voice” childrens’ chorus (and chaperones) to a summer Tanglewood lawn concert/parade in Lenox MA for an August 5, 2014 performance. There will be a Tanglewood children’s chorus at this performance. This would be an ideal opportunity to allow the special needs chorus and their parents to have access to an activity relevant to their group’s efforts.

Bernadette made a motion for ACOD to fund \$1600 for the “My Own Voice” concert attire. Sarah seconded. Unanimously approved.

Bernadette made a motion for the ACOD to fund \$1500 rental of a coach to transport "My Own Voice" members, and parents to the August 5, 2014 Tanglewood Concert/Parade. Stephen seconded. Unanimously approved.

Adjournment: Stephen made a motion to adjourn at 8:10. Julie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget

*Next meeting: Wednesday, May 28, 6:30 pm  
Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level*