

Meeting Minutes  
Andover Commission on Disability  
August 27, 2014

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 6:34 p.m. in the Memorial Hall Library, Activity room, Lower Level.

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

Also Present: Former Chair Justin Coppola Sr.

Minutes: Sarah made a motion to accept the June 24, 2014 minutes and Julie seconded; unanimously approved.

Old Business – Updates

**Spot checks:** Stephen reported that new signs have been ordered posting penalties and or fines for handicap parking violations. The commission had previously discussed the need to replace several signs indicating the \$250 penalty. The re-paving at the Shawsheen Plaza crosswalk, also previously discussed, is nearly finished and some curb-cuts will be added in the Shawsheen area.

**ADA violations at Casco Crossing:** The commission had previously discussed a number of handicap accessibility issues at this 40B housing development on River Road--where 20% of housing is subsidized-- and we know of at least two clients negatively affected by ongoing access issues. Maddy reported that despite meetings, including those with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Architectural Access Board (ABB), the Casco owners have not fully addressed issues which include faulty electric door openings, damaged sidewalks, non-compliant railings, and other access issues. A meeting on these and other issues will be held on 9/16 before the Architectural Access Board in Boston. Maddy plans to attend with the clients.

**ACOD Brochure** – Maddy handed out the new ACOD brochures complete with color photos that Ruth authored, and the commission commented favorably upon it. These brochures which highlight ACOD's mission and accomplishments will be available for Andover Days and general public distribution. (2 town information centers, library, Senior Center)

## New Business

**ADA site visit** – Justin Sr. gave an overview of the new Bancroft School site visit—to evaluate accessibility for people with disabilities—(ADA compliance) which had been postponed since March and finally took place on August 26. Commission members present were: Maddy, Julie, Donna, Justin Sr. and Justin Jr., and our consultant, Chris Becker, of the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD).

Also present were Igor Raniuk, Town Project Manager, Joe Sgrosso, Plant and Facilities Division, Nick Palumbo, and Project Manager from Skanska USA Building Operations. Tour guide Justin Sr. passed around photos and provided commentary on the following issues:

1. Continuing access issues including the protruding audio/video cabinet at the handicap entrance leading to the platform in the cafeteria, and water fountains that protrude into the path of travel.
2. Non-compliant placement of Braille signage for the visually impaired in various areas. For example, signs (at adult height) attached to doors rather than on a wall adjacent to latch side of the doors pose a problem when doors are opening or shutting.
3. Protrusions along lower walls which interfere with children using canes, and trash barrels blocking path to restrooms (impassible for a wheelchair).
4. Lobby window with counters higher than the maximum allowed -- 36 inches high-- making it difficult for people using wheelchairs.
5. Grab bars needed in restroom stalls.
6. Heavy doors from lobby to cafeteria -- need to adjust every door in the building to a 5 lb. weight.
7. Unfinished parking and sidewalk areas; no playground area.

Justin also had additional questions about handrails near the cafeteria stairs to the stage which are being re-studied. **Action Item: Justin will compile outstanding issues with Chris Becker of Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD).**

## Scheduled Commission meetings for 2014 - 2015

Proposed meeting dates with room reservations were presented and discussed, particularly in view of school vacations. Motion to approve the proposed schedule with a caveat that the April 2015 meeting might change. Bernadette made the motion, Sarah seconded; unanimously approved.

### Andover Day

Discussion followed about responsibilities for our table at Andover Day, an outreach opportunity, on September 6. Our brochures and bookmarks are ready as are our display materials on various programs. Members volunteered hours to "cover" the table and answer questions.

### Announcements

Julie mentioned a recent Townsman article about a local student conducting a fundraising project for an adaptive bicycle for a person with spina bifida. She also reported on proposed legislation regarding finger printing for people who work with or visit people who are developmentally disabled. Members were outspoken on a part of this legislation and Maddy offered to speak with Barbara L'Italien who is involved with this proposal. Maddy will report back on this issue at the next meeting.

### Adjournment

Julie moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m., Sarah seconded, and the motion was approved.

### NEXT MEETING:

*September 24, 2014 6:30 PM  
Memorial Hall Library,  
Activity Room, Lower Level*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget