

Meeting Minutes

Andover Commission on Disability

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, December 17, 2014, at 6:32 p.m. in the Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level.

Present: Maddy St. Amand (Acting Chair), Julie Pike, Bernadette Lionetta, Justin Coppola Jr., Stephen Surette, Ruth Rosensweig, and Sarah Paterson. Also Present: Former Chair Justin Coppola Sr.,

Minutes: Sarah made a motion to accept the November 19, 2014 minutes and Stephen seconded, unanimously approved.

Old Business – Updates

Bancroft School – Maddy, Justin Sr. and Justin Jr. discussed recent developments and a final site review on 12/12/14 regarding ADA compliance issues for the Bancroft School. Justin Sr. distributed a letter from Deputy Director Ed Ataide which was a follow up to our November report. The letter itemized 18 corrective measures--of which 14 have been completed and 4 are pending. Of particular concern to ACOD had been the relocation of defibrillators which previously protruded from the walls; signs at bathrooms which are now appropriately placed on adjacent walls rather than on the doors; a grab bar placed in the first floor bathroom--with one still needed in a gym bathroom--and outside, a cable utility pole removed from the middle of a sidewalk. ACOD members expressed gratitude to Ed Ataide's and town employees' response to access concerns.

Youth Center -- Maddy announced that the Youth Center will likely be ready for inspection in March. ACOD plans to be part of the inspection process with respect to access issues, as we complete with all town construction projects.

Spot checks – Stephen noted that the Shawsheen Square traffic light push buttons mentioned at a previous meeting by Sarah, still need to be fixed. Bernadette mentioned that some of the tactile pads at up-town crosswalks are slippery when wet--particularly the one at the Main and Barnard street crossing. Stephen explained that some tactile pads may be older and worn, which could explain Slippery surfaces. *Action Item: Stephen will look into both the matter of worn tactile pads and getting the Shawsheen Square traffic light push buttons fixed.*

New Business

Discussion of new chairperson(s) /By-Law change-- Maddy reiterated that she is resigning as the Acting Chair after four years due to ongoing health issues, and to that end, she met with members for as potential nominees. Maddy explained the rationale for changing the by-laws to allow for Co-Chairs of this nine (9) member volunteer advisory board – our credibility has proven itself over the years and our work has correspondingly greatly increased. Maddy then made a motion to amend the by-laws of the ACOD regarding the chairmanship. It is proposed that this nine member volunteer advisory board be managed by two (2) chairpersons in order to adequately attend to the diverse responsibilities of the Commission and to preside over meetings and project committee meetings. Julie seconded. ***Motion unanimously passed.***

Maddy then proposed a second motion regarding her resignation as follows: As the Acting Chair of the Andover Commission on Disability and with the unanimous passage of the motion on Co-Chairs, I hereby resign the position of Acting Chair and move to recommend to the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen the following members for nominations as Co-Chairs of the ACOD. I hereby resign and nominate Jennifer Samaras and Sarah Paterson as co-chairs. Bernadette seconded. ***Motion unanimously passed.***

Announcements -- Julie reported that she came across an article in the Tribune about the North Andover Commission on Disability reminding people not to park in handicap parking, especially areas marked with “hashtags”, designed to accommodate vans. She recently noted a handicap parking violation and took a photo of the vehicle. Discussion followed regarding how ACOD is currently handling these violations. Maddy recalled a discussion with Police Chief Keefe, over a year ago, where it was agreed that violations have greatly decreased possibly due to the increased fines.

Other--Bernadette mentioned the recent fire to her garage which prompted her to think about possible community service ways to expose children with disabilities to fire and police personnel to prepare them for possible emergency situation. She suggested familiarizing these children to fire and police personnel (including their gear) as part of an upcoming Public Safety Open House or similar event.

Adjournment Julie made a motion at 7:36 to adjourn and Stephen seconded. Unanimously approved.

Next meeting: January 28, 2015 6:30 PM

Memorial Hall Library

Activity Room, Lower Level

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget