

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
January 23, 2013

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Stephen Surette, Julie Pike, Bernadette Lionetta, Justin Coppola Jr., Ruth Rosensweig, Nancy Hogan, Julie Pike, and Susan McKelliget. Also present were guest speaker Tom Deso, Chair of the School Building Committee, and former commission member Justin Coppola Sr.

The November 28, 2012 minutes will be voted upon in February as this meeting is for a presentation and discussion.

New Construction—Tom Deso, Chair of the School Building Committee, presented an update on the progress of the “new” Bancroft School construction. He discussed the current state of play regarding the management, construction bids, and architectural activity. Due to a year’s delay caused by legal challenges and appeals, construction costs are now higher than originally budgeted. The Bancroft Tri-Board decided a Special Town Meeting (February 11th) was needed because additional monies (over the original amount of \$44M budgeted) of \$5.6M needs to be approved by voters.

Although most of the structural contracts have been bid out, additional sub-contractor bids are pending funding approval at town meeting. At this point, the basic steel structure of the school is framed out, and the enclosure will take place during the spring, with the school opening scheduled for 2014. In response to commission questions, Tom noted that energy efficiency will be greatly improved, and the architect and Bancroft PTO will collaborate on the playground design and costs. Nancy asked if the commission could be involved at a later point when ADA issues crop up and Tom agreed it would make sense to review blueprints or “drawing reviews” perhaps in May.

Blueprint Workshop—Maddy reported that she has coordinated having the New England ADA Center host a “blueprint/access workshop” for ACOD members who wish to develop a better understand of how to look at blueprints for potential access issues. The workshop will be held the afternoon of March 28, 2013 at the Memorial Hall Library. The program will feature one of the architects from the Center who will present the curriculum and Maddy has arranged with Tom Deso to see if the workshop could use actual blueprints from the Bancroft school instead of “mock-ups”.

Action Item: The commission agreed to cancel the scheduled March 27th ACOD meeting since it would be held the night before the Thursday afternoon workshop.

Discussion of Commission Plans and Priorities

Maddy had asked ACOD members to identify possible project ideas for the upcoming year and the following proposals were briefly discussed:

- Bernadette gave an update on “My Own Voice” and mentioned that following the December 2012 concert, three new members expressed an interest in signing up. Bernadette is seeking ways to endow MOV so that finances would be on-going. The Commission would consider a second stipend if it were a “start-up” cost. **Action Item: Bernadette will contact potential grant writers for assistance.**
- Pat Commane submitted a proposal (in absentia) to build a stand alone web-site which would include contracting with a professional web designer to create a very site-friendly composite of resources for the disabled, prepared by a college or school research team as a project. Pat has agreed to chair this sub-committee. **Action Item: Pat will look into ways to bring on board the appropriate individuals to develop this project.**
- Justin Sr. as guest (former Co-Chair of the ACOD) submitted a detailed ACOD Project Ideas sheet which was handed out to members for consideration at a later date.
- Ruth proposed contacting someone at the Vocational School to see whether building access components could be incorporated into a current house being built by students in Andover. **Action Item: Ruth and Nancy will meet with a contact at the vocational school—perhaps Marilyn Fitzgerald—to discuss this idea.** Ruth also noted the need for some type of overnight shelter with a generator, in Andover, in the event of an emergency power outage for 24 hours or more. **Action Item: Ruth will research this idea.**
- Justin Sr. noted that the current Disability Indicator Form may need to be revised. It is now part of Emergency Preparedness List plans. Apart from updates, there are questions as to how it is distributed/marketed etc. which should be investigated further.
- As the Acting Chair, Maddy regularly receives architectural plans for the renovation of buildings in town from the Mass Architectural Board. **Action Item: Following the above mentioned blueprint training, ACOD members (and possibly others in the community who may be architects) should assist in these reviews to offer comment in our advisory capacity.**

Next Meeting: February 27, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m., Activity Room, Memorial Hall Library

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget