

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
February 27, 2013

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Stephen Surette, Julie Pike, Bernadette Lionetta, Patricia Commane, Justin Coppola Jr., Ruth Rosensweig, Nancy Hogan, and Susan McKelliget. .

Minutes: The meeting began at 6:40 p.m. Julie made a motion to accept the November 28, 2012 minutes and Stephen seconded; unanimously approved. Bernadette made a motion to accept the January 23, 2013 minutes, seconded by Justin Jr. and approved.

Planning Discussion

1. **Resources for the disabled on website**—Pat opened the discussion by saying she would like to see development of a link to the town’s website which would serve as a resource for services available locally covering the entire spectrum of disabilities. Discussion followed about the need for both research into where these services are located, as well as technical expertise to properly develop a web design. Although Pat thought Andover High School might be a logical start for both research and web development by students, others mentioned the possibilities of students from the Vocational Technical School and Merrimack College. *Action Item: Bernadette offered to contact Ms. deKelley of the High School Guidance Department to see if there is a way to involve high school students in the web-site design piece. Pat will look into personnel at the Vocational School, and will contact Paul Puzanghera, the towns’ Chief Information Officer about this idea. Pat then made a formal motion for ACOD to move forward with this proposal to develop a disability resource website. Bernadette seconded the motion which passed.*
2. **Safety issues of the disabled—**a.) **Overnight shelter with generator power**—Ruth followed up her assertion at a previous meeting that there does not appear to be a coordinated process in town for notifying individuals about emergency shelters in the event of power outages. She also mentioned that the Library had recently received a grant to be used for “emergency purposes”. Julie noted that the Red Cross, Police, and Emergency Management typically set up running generators at the Senior Center. Maddy then raised the question as to what the status of TRIAD is at the current time since safety issues are their mission. *Action Item: Maddy will explore the current status/role of TRIAD and Ruth will get back to the commission with the status of the library grant. .*

b.) **Lock Boxes**—Maddy presented the concept of using lock boxes (or small key safes) which are installed on the exterior of homes to enable emergency personnel to use a spare key (in the lock box) to enter a person’s home in case of emergency without using forced entry. The town of Danvers has such a program in place and the boxes themselves are relatively inexpensive (\$60). Maddy distributed a handout of the program for further consideration and asked whether it is something for which ACOD might want to offer sponsorship this year. The Commission members agreed

that it seemed like a sound idea. *Action Item: Maddy will look into the costs and feasibility off the lock box program with the police department of Danvers as well as TRIAD for a possible collaboration.*

3. **ADA specifications—evaluations and site visits**—Maddy noted the importance of increased mentoring along with training ACOD members in ADA specs for the increasing number of site visits envisioned both now and in the near future in town. Once members are trained about access issues, the workload will need to be apportioned among members. *Action Item: Maddy will contact Jeff Dougan of the Massachusetts Office on Disability regarding future CAM - Community Action Monitoring - programs.*

Ruth spoke of a conversation held with a board member of the Andover Community Trust regarding the accessibility of the house currently being built on Andover Street by the Vocational School. *Action Item: Ruth will request time at the next board meeting of the Andover Community Trust to speak of the concept we have been supporting – “Basic Access” – and to share our handouts with the members.*

Blueprint Workshop

Maddy reported that Architect Meghan Dufresne of the New England ADA Center will be using Bancroft School plans at the March 28, 2013 ACOD workshop session at Memorial Hall. Catering will be provided by the kitchen staff at the Senior Center. Maddy encouraged all members to attend and noted that 12:30 -1:00 is the luncheon and 1:00-4:00 is the workshop time. In preparation for this workshop, former chair Justin Coppola, Sr., and Maddy met with Project Director Richard Crowley to select relevant pages of the plans for use in evaluating the plans regarding ADA compliance for purposes of this special workshop but also for the project monitoring throughout construction.

Adjournment: Ruth made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Stephen. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission was to be on Wednesday March 27, 2013 @ 6:30 pm. Due to the workshop being held the next day, March 28, that meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on April 24, 2013 @ 6:30 pm in the Activity Room on the lower level of the Memorial Hall Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget