

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
April 24, 2013

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Stephen Surette, Julie Pike, Bernadette Lionetta, Patricia Commane, Justin Coppola Jr., Ruth Rosensweig, Jade Perry, Justin Coppola Sr. and Susan McKelliget. Guests: John Pearson, President of Andover Community Trust and Susan Stott, Andover Community Trust.

Minutes: The meeting began at 6:35 p.m. Bernadette made a motion to accept the February 27, 2013 minutes and Stephen seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

1. **Spot checks/ Repairs**—Stephen gave a brief overview of the current status of curb repair work as well as the need for painting at the Old Town Hall parking lot as part of the Highway Departments' Spring check list. Bernadette noted that repair was needed to a curb near Wheeler street. *Action Item: Commission members will collectively be on the look-out for any potential "fixes" in the roads and sidewalks and bring their concerns to Stephen's attention.* Stephen also noted that work on a second rail road line in town is anticipated within the year and this will require appropriated access checks.
2. **Lock Boxes**--Maddy has been following up on a concept she reported on at an earlier meeting---that of installing so-called lock boxes which are attached to a person's residence and can be unlocked in the case of an emergency with a master key held at the public safety center. The town of Danvers has this system in place and the main advantage is that emergency access into the homes of people who are disabled, elderly or who otherwise may not be able to open their door in time for fire-fighters or other first responders, could be helped without the need to break into the property. The lock boxes cost about \$60 each and the commission is interested in possibly providing start up monies for a program like this in town. Since Maddy and others are in the early stages of discussing this concept, this may be a project for ACOD in the next fiscal year. *Action Item: Maddy will follow up with the necessary parties to see if this is a feasible project for Andover citizens.*

New Business

1. **Basic Access—Vocational Tech Homebuilders**—Susan Stott, a long-time member of the Andover Community Trust (ACT) which seeks to place donated land into a trust for affordable home building in town, gave the commission an overview of ACT's mission and status to date. She noted that six homes have been built in town and a home on Woburn Street is slated to be built on trust-deeded property in the next year or two. Re-sale prices of these properties are restricted by a formula so that the

homes remain affordable for income-eligible families in the future. John Pearson, provided further information to the commission in an update of building plans and photos of homes currently occupied. The commission, through inquiries by Ruth and others, wanted to explore the concept of “visitability”—discussed at previous meetings—as part of the overall building design of the latest home to be constructed. A discussion ensued about water tables, grading and the like bearing on the likelihood of designing a “no-step” access home and it was generally considered a positive idea with a real possibility for the next ACT home. **Action Item: ACOD will continue to communicate with ACT as plans progress for the new home being built to see if a “visitable” or “basic access home” can be accomplished on the land being considered.**

2. **ADA Medical Offices**—Maddy handed out a recent Boston Globe article describing some of the many issues patients with disabilities have with their medical needs including access and in some instances medical care. Patients have been refused care according to this Globe article, if the medical office could not accommodate access needs. The commission briefly discussed personal experiences with lack of such things as examining tables or chairs for use by people with disabilities and agreed to discuss this issue further. **Action Item: ACOD will further discuss whether a study of local medical offices—such as the one done a few years ago of local restaurants—is needed for access to and within medical facilities.**

Announcements: Maddy reminded members of the upcoming May Town Meeting and also noted a commemoration event to be held in the Park honoring the victims, their families and the Emergency and First Responders in town.

Adjournment: Julie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and Stephen seconded and it was so moved.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 6:30 pm

Activity Room, Lower Level, Memorial Hall Library

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget