

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
Memorial Hall Library Activity Room
October 23, 2013

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, October 23, 2013, at 6:35 in the Activity Room of the Memorial Hall Library.

Present: Maddy St. Amand (Acting Chair), Julie Pike, Bernadette Lionetta, Stephen Surette, Patricia Commane, Justin Coppola Jr., and Ruth Rosensweig.

Also Present: Donna Gorzela (former ACOD member) and Justin Coppola Sr. (former ACOD Chairperson).

Julie made a motion to accept the September 25, 2013 meeting and Justin seconded, and the minutes were passed unanimously.

❖ Old Business / Updates

CAM Training-- Both Justin Sr. and Justin Jr. attended the two-day Cad/Cam training for accessibility and Justin Jr. gave a brief update. Justin noted that more recent federal regulations are stricter than they used to be, covering areas such as playgrounds, and employee” break areas” rather than just applying a “best practices” approach.

Outdoor Dining Survey—A previous action item was completed with Maddy’s meeting with various town officials including Building Inspectors Chris Clemente and Ray Costello, ZBA Chair David Brown and Town Clerk Larry Murphy. There was general agreement among the officials that ACOD input regarding access specs—such as furniture for outdoor dining—is an important factor at the outset of project building or renovations rather than after the fact.

Spot Checks -- Steve reported that re-paving of Elm Street sidewalks are finished up to Burton Farm Drive but there are still low hanging branches over the sidewalks in some areas. The repaving efforts will continue.

Online Resource Directory –Pat reported that due to pressing family commitments, she will be resigning from the ACOD and therefore the directory will need some re-direction to get it up and running. Bernadette offered the use of a printed directory for families of children and youth with special needs to be included in the proposed directory. Pat has been with ACOD for a number of years and will be very much missed. **Action Item: ACOD will look into ordering copies of the guide Bernadette mentioned, and will re-examine the future of the on-line resource directory.**

❖ New Business

Administrative business (Executive Session) —The commission went into a brief discussion filling an open board position. Maddy checked to see if there were any applicants posted in the talent bank and learned there were none. The commission discussed Donna Gorzela's ongoing interest in, and past experience with, the ACOD Board. Bernadette nominated Donna as a voting member and Justin Jr. seconded and unanimously passed.

Program sponsorship-- Bernadette gave an overview of prior ACOD “start up” support for the Treble Chorus of New England's choral program for children with of special needs called “My Own Voice”. Bernadette asked the committee for continued support in the form of a \$175 half page advertisement in the Treble Chorus of New England program book for upcoming events. Bernadette made a motion for ACOD to subsidize the ad, and the board passed unanimously.

Bernadette then spoke about the need for outreach into the community for additional special needs participants and possibly additional events with the chorus group.

Bancroft School Monitoring Committee –This sub-committee was proposed with a view toward advisory and on-site participation as the architectural plans for the Bancroft school unfold. **Action Item: Committee members will include Justin Coppola, Sr. Justin Coppola, Jr., Julie Pike, Maddy St. Amand and Chris Becker, an MOD Staff member. Donna is interested in joining the committee as well.**

Announcements—Julie handed out a flyer regarding an upcoming forum sponsored by the Andover Economic Development Council on various issues involving Andover's Future.

Adjournment: Pat made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., Justin Jr. seconded and unanimously passed.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

Activity Room, Lower Level, Memorial Hall Library

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Respect fully submitted,

Susan McKelliget