

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
February 22, 2012

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Justin Coppola Jr., Ruth Rosensweig, Julie Pike, Stephen Surette, and Susan McKelliget. Guests: Jade Perry, Robert Strecker.

Minutes: The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Stephen made a motion to accept the November 30, 2011 minutes. Justin seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved. (*December meeting—planned cancellation; January meeting—unplanned cancellation*). **Note: These and future meeting minutes will be posted online.**

Old Business—Program Updates:

1. **Kids on the Block**—Update postponed until Bernadette can present.
2. **Spot Checks**—As an advisory board to the selectmen, ACOD routinely “spots” issues relating to inadequate curb cuts, road or sidewalk damage, or other issues impeding accessibility.
 - **Railroad Crossing**—Julie and Stephen are the Spot Check sub-committee members. Julie asked which entity—town or railroad-- has jurisdiction around the railroad track area for example, outside the tracks but within the signal gates. *Action Item: Stephen will contact the Highway Department and Plant and Facilities Directors.*
 - Julie also reported that she has contacted Jami Cope about ongoing access problems and the committee then discussed curb cut issues on Bartlett street, the lack of a crosswalk in a certain area on Park street, difficulties with the “right on red” markings on Main street near Post Office avenue, and inaccessibility into the doorway of the new yogurt shop on Park street. *Action Item: ACOD will send a letter to the owner of the Orange Leaf Yogurt Shop as well as the building owner regarding the ridge barring access into the shop and Stephen will check with Officer Edgerley about whether there are proper markings for “right on red” on Main street near Post Office avenue.* The issue of inaccessible locker rooms and baths at the Latitude Health club was also discussed. *Action Item: ACOD will check with Kia Gilmore to see if major renovations have occurred since the last time ACOD checked this facility for access issues.*
 - **Library Entrance**—Maddy contacted Ed Ataide about the problem with access into the back of the library when people drop off and pick up library patrons, effectively blocking the entrance area. *Action Item: Maddy will check back with Ed Ataide following renovations involving the slope to the entrance this Spring.*

- **Sovereign Bank**—Maddy briefly explained the lack of access in the vestibule of this Shawsheen branch bank where the ATMs are located. **Action Item:** *Maddy has a call in to the access architect and will report back to ACOD with information about the plans to reconfigure the vestibule.*

New Business

1. Program Proposals

- **Pilot Ipad Program**—Will Await Bernadette
- **Peer Mentoring**—Will Await Bernadette
- **Motion: Julie put forward a motion on Maddy’s behalf “To give \$1,000 to NEADS (the National Education for Assistance Dogs Services) to help in the purchase of a trained service dog for Jami Cope of Andover.”** Jami was a member of ACOD and continues in her advocacy within the community for people with disabilities. It was noted that Jami is currently President of the Board at NILP. The committee unanimously agreed that it is part of ACOD’s mission to financially support people in the community actively involved with advocacy for people with disabilities. In this case the committee agreed to donate a sum of money toward a fundraising effort to pay for a sight dog to replace the dog that Jami had until he passed a few months ago. The ACOD donation would be a small fraction of the actual cost of the dog. **Motion was seconded by Stephen and unanimously passed.**

2. **Correspondence to U.S. Postal Service**—Last month, on behalf of ACOD, Ruth wrote a letter to the USPS Architectural Barriers Compliance Program requesting electric doors on exterior and interior doors at the Stevens Street Post Office. ACOD is trying to get the same level of compliance at the Main Post Office which is currently in place at the branch office. The January 26, 2012 letter was distributed to committee members. **Action Item:** *Ruth will report back to the committee any response from the U.S Postal Service.*

3. **Discussion: Renovations at Olde Andover Village**—Maddy gave a brief overview of the sale last summer of the Olde Andover Village Square to Avison Young Company and local investors, and the significant renovations about to take place. **Action Item:** *ACOD will be in touch with the architectural access specialist Deb Ryan & Associates to review the blueprints for the 8 levels including elevators and sprinkler systems. Also, ACOD will write to the new owners letting them know of its interest in monitoring progress from the beginning.*

4. **Basic Access in Every New House**—Ruth proposed replacing the current “visitability” brochures with newer illustrated brochures from a company in Georgia

which incorporate the premises of “visitability” or basic access, in new construction but uses an easier sounding name and updated photos. *Action Item: Ruth will distribute brochures at the library, Julie will distribute brochures at Old Town Hall, and Stephen will bring brochures to the Planning Department and Town Offices.*

5. Announcements

- March meeting—Jeff Dougan of the MA office on Disability will speak on the new 2010 standards for ADA compliance for Title 3 entities.
- N.E ADA Center sponsoring regional workshops on reviewing blueprints for ADA compliance—Maddy will pay tuitions to get members up to speed on architectural courses.

Adjournment Stephen made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Justin. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 28 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget