

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**—Rather than having a sub-committee solely responsible for this ongoing task, ACOD members recently agreed to “spot” issues relating to inadequate curb cuts, road or sidewalk damage, or other issues impeding accessibility.

**Railroad Crossing**—Julie and Stephen co-chair the Spot Check sub-committee. 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 in this area.

**Other locations:** The committee then discussed curb cut issues on Bartlet Street, the lack of a crosswalk in the municipal parking lot on Park Street, difficulties with the “right on red” markings on Main Street near Post Office Avenue, and inaccessibility at the doorway of the new yogurt shop on Park Street.

**Action Item:** *Julie will send a letter to the owner of Orange Leaf Yogurt as well as the building owner regarding the ridge barring access into the shop. Stephen will check with Officer Edgerley about whether there are proper markings for “right on red” on Main Street near Post Office Avenue.*

The inaccessibility of the locker rooms and baths at the Latitude Health club was also discussed as a violation of ADA requirements.

**Action Item:** *Maddy will check with Kia Gilmore to see if major renovations have occurred since the access review we conducted as part of the Main Street Project.*

**Library Entrance**—When Maddy contacted Ed Ataide about the blocking of the handicap ramp at the rear of the library due to people picking up their kids in this area, she learned that the entire area is due for early spring renovation with new curb cuts, slope of the ramp and additional color striping if we so request.

**Sovereign Bank**—Maddy reviewed the lack of access in the vestibule where the ATMs are located of this Shawsheen branch bank. The managers and architect of the bank had assured us of remediation taking place before the first of the year but no construction is in evidence.

**Action Item:** *Maddy has a call in to the access architect and will report back to ACOD with information about the timeline to reconfigure the vestibule.*

## New Business

### 1. Program Proposals

**Pilot Ipad Program**—Discussion postponed pending Bernadette being present

**Peer Mentoring Program**—Discussion postponed pending Bernadette being present

**Training Scholarship**---Julie put forward a motion **“To give \$1,000.00 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 is a past member of ACOD and continues in her advocacy within the community for people with disabilities as the President of the Board at NILP. The training of a service dog costs \$20,000 and the client must raise \$9,500 of that amount. .

**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 the public exterior and interior doors at the Stevens Street Post Office. A copy of the January 26, 2012 letter was distributed to commission members and is attached to these minutes.

**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 there.

**Action Item:** *Maddy will be in touch with the architectural access specialist Deb Ryan & Associates to request review of the blueprints for the 8 levels including elevators and sprinkler systems. She will also write to the new owners letting them know of its interest in monitoring progress from the beginning of this significant renovation.*

4. **Basic Access in Every New House**—Ruth proposed replacing ACOD’s **“Visitability”** brochures distributed last year with newer illustrated brochures from a company in Georgia which incorporate the concept of “visitability” or basic access, in new construction. They seem to have an easier sounding name and updated photos. An ongoing concern and educational effort, printing of this document is viewed as support to an existing program and does not require a motion.

*Action Items: Maddy will speak with the town printing office about the new handout and order a substantial supply. Individuals volunteered to handle distribution of the new brochure:*

*Ruth – Library locations*

*Julie – Town Offices information center and the Planning Department*

*Stephen – Old Town Hall information table.*

## **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.

New England ADA Center will be sponsoring regional workshops on reviewing blueprints for ADA compliance—Maddy will get specifics and notify the members. The Commission will cover tuition, transportation and incidentals because of the direct relevance to our work.

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. in the Activity Room at Memorial Hall Library.**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget