

Meeting Minutes  
Andover Commission on Disability  
May 23, 2012

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Justin Coppola Jr., Ruth Rosensweig, Julie Pike, Stephen Surette, Pat Commene and Susan McKelliget. Guest: ACOD Liaison/Selectman Mary Lyman

Minutes: The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Julie made a motion to accept the April 25, 2012 minutes with a friendly amendment to note that Julie will be in touch with Jami instead of the Orange Leaf Yogurt Store owner. Stephen seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

1.) **Spot Checks**—The spot check sub-committee had a brief discussion about ongoing access issues which will be continued at the next meeting. There has been no activity regarding the access issue at the Shawsheen Sovereign Bank noted previously in minutes. **Action Item: Maddy will contact the bank every 6 months or so until it is resolved.** Maddy also had a discussion with Debra Ryan, an architectural access specialist to discuss access issues as renovation plans for Olde Andover Village develop. **Action Item: Maddy will stay in touch with Ms. Ryan as needed.** It is hoped that the architectural firm who authorized the site visit will be willing to share the report as opposed to our duplicating the effort on our own.

2.) **Start-up project funding**—Maddy distributed a copy of a letter she wrote and Ruth edited to Mr. Rod Smith of the Town's Accounting Department outlining ACOD's rationale regarding sponsorship of "start up programs." This position paper seeks to clarify earlier discussions with town officials querying ACOD's intent and authority with regard to funding these programs.

- **Peer Mentoring Program**—Maddy reiterated the unique socialization skills that this program would provide to special needs middle school students (who would be matched with a High School "buddy" for various "up-town" activities). Essentially, the structured program would provide real life experiences such as making purchases, enjoying snacks in a social setting outside the school realm. The program starts this week.
- **My Own Voice/Treble Chorus Program**—Bernadette is taking the lead as coordinator in buying and storing musical supplies for this program which seeks to bring together special needs children from at least 10 families with Treble Chorus Singers or "Buddies" so that they can perform in musical experiences like other students. Since this is a first of its kind choral group in the Merrimack Valley, ACOD anticipates continuing involvement in keeping with our goal of equal access and "access to an experience not now available" to this group of people. **Action Item: All are invited to attend the first concert as noted below in the "Announcements".**

- **IPOD printers for Doherty Middle School**—Bernadette has not heard back from the individual in charge of getting the paper work submitted for IPOD Touches. **Action Item: Bernadette will e-mail school personnel one last time, setting the deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup> for their specifications.**

### New Business

**Nomination for membership**—Maddy (in her capacity as Personnel Committee) interviewed Nancy Hogan who previously attended an ACOD meeting, for one of the two vacancies available on ACOD. Ruth put forward this candidate knowing her for many years as a veteran ESL teacher in the Lawrence school system. Ruth nominated Ms. Hogan, Julie seconded the motion, which unanimously passed. **Action Item: Maddy will contact the Board of Selectmen for final approval and then contact Ms. Hogan so she can be sworn in at the Town Clerk's Office.**

**Andover Days**—Maddy noted that this year Andover Days is September 15<sup>th</sup> (rain date the 29<sup>th</sup>). After a brief discussion on the relative merits of participating in this event-- given the limited written materials available, the \$120. fee for non-profits, and the uncertainty of member commitment on that day, Maddy asked members to consider whether or not to go forward with participation in this event **Action Item: Members to deliberate and make a decision at the next meeting.** Maddy is requesting that members consider working on the development of new informational materials this summer in preparation for having a booth at such events.

**Meeting Calendar for the new Fiscal Year**—Maddy asked the commission to review a list of proposed meeting dates for 2013. Members also discussed setting an earlier start time than 7:00 p.m. The general consensus was to start the meetings at 5:30 p.m. **Action Item: Vote on time change at the next scheduled meeting.**

**Other**—Maddy briefly noted a discussion she had with Ed Ataide regarding the upcoming renovations to the rear entrance of the library, handicap entrances at West Middle School including access to the ball fields. She also reissued our position paper from 2008 regarding the preference for yellow tactile pads for crosswalks.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS— “My Own Voice” performance, Wednesday, May 29, 6:15 p.m. at West Parish Church.**

Justin had an announcement regarding a technology fair he attended recently where he learned about the “Massachusetts Assistive Technology Long Term Device Loan Program” operated by Easter Seals of Massachusetts. This loan program (for any assisted daily activities) provides free of charge or low cost assistive devices which can be used first on a trial basis.

Adjournment: Julie made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Stephen. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 27, 2012, 7 o'clock p.m.*

*Activity Room, Memorial Hall Library*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget