

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
July 25, 2012

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Justin Coppola Jr., Ruth Rosensweig, Julie Pike, Bernadette Lionetta, Stephen Surette, and Susan McKelliget.

Minutes: The meeting began at 5:40 p.m. Julie made a motion to accept the May 23, 2012 minutes, Justin seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved. (June 27th meeting cancelled).

Please Note: New commission members Nancy Hogan and Jade Perry

Old Business

- **Andover Days**—Scheduled for September 15, The commission discussed the \$125 fee for non profits and agreed that ACOD would not participate this year based on a brief cost/benefit discussion.
- **Updates:** (Bernadette reported on the following)
 1. **Peer Mentoring Program**—To date, there were 3 peer mentoring trips uptown to allow middle and high school kids with disabilities to participate in after school “up-town” activities as described more fully in previous minutes. The plan for this “seed” program is for schools to continue the role in the future.
 2. **My Own Voice**— For the first time, eleven special needs students who want to be part of a chorus, sang at the May 2012 performance held at the West Parish Church. It seems that as many as 20 additional participants would like to join this chorus and perform in upcoming seasonal concerts. Excellent media coverage.
 3. **IPOD printers for the Doherty Middle School** – One wireless printer was purchased with ACOD monies which eliminates students having to download from a separate computer in order to print. Now, 12 special needs students in the 7th and 8th grades will be able to print directly off their hand held devices.
- **Spot Checks/Repairs**
 1. **Railroad tracks**— There is a foot wide gully which has caused people who use wheel chairs to get stuck in a spot which is located in the area exiting Dundee Park and heading up past the new curb cuts, close to the tracks. **Action Item: Steve will check to see if this is an area that can be fixed by the town. (The proximity to the tracks may be an issue if it is on Railroad property.)**
 2. **Orange Leaf Yogurt**—ACOD has heard reports of an obstructive step leading into this new shop making it difficult for people who use wheel chairs. Since ACOD is not authorized to make a formal complaint with respect to this type of matter, a customer must raise the issue to the store owner. **Action Item: Justin will follow-up on this access issue.**
 3. **Post Office Avenue**—There is no “right on red sign” at the end of Post Office Avenue just before turning right on Elm street which causes traffic to back up on Post Office Avenue and Main Street. **Action Item: Steve will look into this issue.**

4. **Memorial Hall Library**—Maddy noted that the library back door “paddles” (door openers) need to be repositioned in conjunction with the ongoing renovations to the back of library/patio area and has conferred with Ed Ataide. Ruth will be demonstrating the difficulty when they reach that point in construction.
5. **Sovereign Bank**—Maddy followed up with Kevin Peck at Sovereign Bank since it’s now been a year since discussions with him and others regarding access to ATM and re-design of the front of the bank. Mr. Peck assured Maddy he would make this issue a priority.
6. **Curb Cut at Free Church on Elm Street**—Steve noted this “work in progress”.

New Business

- **New Construction—Bancroft School**—Maddy recently consulted with Ed Ataide about the ADA required handicap parking signs for the new school. She also noted to the group the application of the law, i.e., what is mandated (signs, not just paint on the tarmac) or not required (such as indicators of the town fine of \$250.)
- **Renovation—Old Andover Village**—Maddy has been in contact with the Lincoln Essex Management company, and with Deb Ryan (the ADA compliance officer) who Maddy learned was the former long-standing president with the Massachusetts Architectural Board. ACOD is on the “checklist” for accessibility issues on this renovation.
- **Workshop on Architectural Plans**— The Commission regularly receives blueprints from the Massachusetts Architectural Board regarding new or about to be renovated Andover buildings. Maddy expressed her concern that the full ACOD membership should have training for a working knowledge of these plans so that ACOD can play a more active role in review of planning designs. Maddy met recently with the New England ADA Center in Boston to plan the curriculum of an appropriate workshop for advocates regarding the reading and interpretation of architectural sketches and blueprints. The Commission intends to sponsor its members to this workshop when offered this year.
- **Calendar for New Fiscal Year**—There was a brief discussion on whether to go forward with a 5:30 start time rather than 7:00. Although the August meeting will begin at 5:30, the commission will finalize a time for the upcoming year depending on new and current members’ schedules. Please check e-mails.

Adjournment: Stephen made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ruth. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 22, 2012, 5:30 p.m., Activity Room, Memorial Hall Library

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget