

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
October 24, 2012

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Justin Coppola Jr., Ruth Rosensweig, Nancy Hogan, Julie Pike, Bernadette Lionetta, Pat Commene, Jade Perry, and Susan McKelliget.

Guest: Bill Pennington, and Selectman Mary Lyman also attended the meeting.

Minutes: The meeting began at 6:35 p.m. Julie made a motion to accept the September 26, 2012 minutes, Bernadette seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Reflection on Speakers/Distribution of News Articles: Maddy briefly re-capped the session last month which involved two invited disability rights speakers who presented their views on the up-coming Ballot Question Two “Death with Dignity Act”. Maddy then distributed two recent newspaper articles which presented opposing sides of the issue.

Old Business

1. **Spot Checks: Sovereign Bank.** Maddy has been in contact with representatives of the Sovereign Bank in the Shawsheen Plaza for at least a year now, to correct access issues to their ATM machine and front entrance. She has recently learned that Sovereign Bank has a new architect-- necessitating a reiteration of all the access issues to the new firm---this has set back plans to correcting agreed-upon access problems. **Action Item: Maddy will follow up with the new architect(s) as requested by the bank manager.**
2. **Andover Village Square**—Phase I of this reconstruction will soon take place and Bernadette and Jade agreed to do a “walk-through” as soon as a date is set. **Action Item: Bernadette and Jade agreed to report back to ACOD any access issues they discover during their “walk through”.**
3. **Curb Cuts: Action Item: Julie and Steve will follow up with the highway department regarding an updated list of curb cut plans, recently developed by Chris Cronin and Steve. Julie noted that she and Steve are continuing to discover curb cuts needs as they scope out the up-town Andover streets.**

New Business

1. **Guest:** Maddy introduced Bill Pennington, organizer of the spring 5K road race benefitting an organization called “Home for the Troops”. Mr. Pennington gave an overview of his own military/family background and his efforts to organize a race (scheduled for Andover on April 7, 2013) with proceeds going to build homes for disabled troops returning from service. Mr. Pennington asked ACOD how they might participate either directly in the event, specifically with the disability component as well as advocacy for the event. He distributed pamphlets and his business card listing bbgmp@comcast.net and his phone number, 978-886-7574.

ACOD will consider active participation in what might be called a “Walk and Roll” event with the possibility of recumbent bicycles for some members—ideas proposed by Justin and Jade. Maddy noted that ACOD does not have a “constituency” per se apart from perhaps notifying the Townsman of the upcoming event. Bernadette proposed soliciting school-age participants to promote/market the event and or participate in it. A sub-committee will be established to work on these proposals and provide a direct link with Mr. Pennington. Nancy mentioned contacting NLIP for their possible involvement.

Action Item: *Members will confirm to Maddy their attendance at the Wyndham Hotel next Tuesday, October 30, for a meeting with Bill’s planning committees on this event.*

2. **November Meeting**—ACOD agreed to meet next month on November 28, 2012—the week following Thanksgiving. Pat made a motion to change the date of the November 2013 meeting date from November 27th (conflict with Thanksgiving) to November 20th. Bernadette seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. **Library Curb**—The Memorial Hall Library has just finished renovations to the parking lot entrance of the building, which involved curb cuts and a pad for access to the road when someone is using a wheelchair. Jade reported that, due to inadequate lighting, she recently fell (at that area.) Maddy reported this problem to Ed Ataide the following week and Ruth reported that the lighting issue has been resolved.

Action Item: *Ruth was not present during this part of the meeting, but Maddy will seek to engage her along with Jade and Justin in a follow-up meeting with Ed Ataide to address the concerns about the recently installed curb cut.*

4. **Think Tank/Program Planning**—Maddy expressed her concerns that we did not have a discussion on future goals this evening. Key ACOD members were either not present or left early due to other responsibilities. Therefore, a brief discussion ensued with respect to the following:

- **Projects from the Community**—Maddy posed the question as to whether ACOD would be providing “seed” or start-up funding in this budget year. Members were asked to try to each bring in a concept proposal for discussion at the November meeting.
- **Goals and Objectives**—Maddy handed out the ACOD Mission Statement and a background of ACOD Sponsorship, for members to prepare for the next meeting.
Action Item: *All members should review these two handouts and be prepared to discuss upcoming goals and projects for the next year.*

Adjournment: Julie made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Jade. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: *Wednesday, November 28, @ 6:30 p.m., Activity Room, Memorial Hall Library*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget