

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
November 28, 2012

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

Minutes: The meeting began at 6:37 p.m. Bernadette made a motion to accept the October 24, 2012 minutes, Julie seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

1. Spot Checks/Repairs

- **Sovereign Bank**—Maddy gave an update from her recent conversations with Andrea Jones the senior property manager for Sovereign Bank’s new property design firm, CBRB (C.B. Richard Ellis). The changes in property management and architectural design firms are some of the many reasons for delays in taking care of access issues raised by ACOD over a year and a half ago. The good news is that most of the issues brought up in ACOD’s original proposal—which included larger relocated entry-ways, a reconfigured teller station and ATM have been addressed. Other items such as an electric door opener will be installed, and handicap parking will be addressed. Maddy asked that ACOD be on the punch list as these projects take shape in late winter. The money has been approved and purchase and work orders are expected this week.
- **Orange Leaf Yogurt**—Julie briefly reported that previously there was poor accessibility into the entrance of this shop but now, due to a recently installed front step, access is actually worse. *Action Item: Julie and Stephen will continue to keep the ACOD informed of developments on this, and other access issues.*
- **Andover Village Square**—Maddy spoke with town planning staff on recent developments in Phase I of the reconstruction. *Action Item: Maddy will be in touch with the project manager regarding a walk through of Phase I with individuals who are chair-users..*
- **Town Hall Parking Lot**—Julie and Justin discussed the Bartlet street entrance to the parking lot where a curb cut is needed for access. *Action Item: A sub-committee report (JP & SS) will be forthcoming on curb cut developments and handicap parking painting in that parking lot.*

2. **“Run for the Troops”** As noted in last month’s meeting, Bill Pennington, original organizer of the Feaster Five Road Race, met with the ACOD to discuss its potential role in the April 7 town race for people with disabilities combined with the veterans.

The race itself is in the beginning stages of organization and there was general concern about the disability aspect of the race taking place this year. The concept of a “run and roll” race (wheel chairs involved) is one that needs more “fleshing out” and Julie reported meeting with Bill’s staff to get a better idea of what role, if any, ACOD would play. **Action Item: Bernadette volunteered to contact Bill to suggest offering him a consultation session or non-ACOD planning meeting regarding ACOD’s role. Julie and Pat and possibly Jade will attend the meeting.**

New Business

1. **Very Special Arts (VSA)** –Nancy gave an overview of this non-profit organization which falls within the State Organization on Arts and Disability. This organization promotes access to the arts for people with all sorts of disabilities. Discussion followed about how this organization might be a potential resource for in-town “inclusive audience experiences” such as providing interpreter services for the hearing impaired. **Bernadette will take information regarding VSA to the Director of Student Services and possibly to heads of music departments in the town’s schools.** Maddy encouraged ACOD members to get on the VSA online distribution list.
2. **Meeting with Ed Ataide (Library Entrance renovation)** Maddy reported that Ruth, Justin, Jade and she met with Ed Ataide about the library curb cut into the parking lot where Jade fell on the ramp due in part to the curb cut itself and poor lighting. Maddy was happy to report that agreement was reached; additional lighting was installed; and an additional curved railing was installed to direct the flow of traffic. **Action Item: Ruth, Jade, and Justin will write a letter summarizing the issues and thanking Ed for his prompt response in taking care of the improvements.**
3. **New England ADA Center**—Noting that it is so much easier to catch ADA issues in building planning stages, Maddy encouraged members to attend an upcoming workshop on reading architectural plans. There are potentially 20 open spots at this event, and Maddy took a quick poll to see who might be available to attend. The preferred date for this half day meeting is on a Thursday afternoon. **Maddy will coordinate the hosting issues of the auditorium, refreshments and set-up for this workshop to be given by the professionals at the NEADA Center.**
4. **Townsmen article**—Julie read an article that was in the November 22, 2012 Andover Townsman which recognized three Andover Elementary students who won the New England Disability Awareness Essay Contest. Discussion followed about further recognition in the form of a letter from ACOD to the students for publication in the local press. **Julie will complete this effort.**
5. **Treble Chorus Upcoming Concert**—Bernadette announced that the Treble Chorus of New England which now includes “My Own Voice”—children with disabilities who sing in their “own” chorus, will be performing at the Rogers

Center December 15, 2012. ACOD provided support to “My Own Voice” by financing items such as sheet music, drums, and rhythm sticks which were needed by the chorus last Spring. Bernadette encouraged ACOD members and others to attend the upcoming concert. ***Pat made a motion for the ACOD to buy a half page advertisement in the December 15 Program Guide for \$250 and congratulating My Own Voice. Justin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.***

Program Planning There was not enough time to discuss Program Planning for 2013 as scheduled. ***Action Item: Maddy asked each member to bring an idea to the January meeting when it will be listed first on the agenda.***

Announcement As members of an advisory board, members were requested to complete the online survey and submit the forms in regard to the Conflict of Interest law.

Adjournment: Julie made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Bernadette. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 24, @ 6:30 p.m., Activity Room, Memorial Hall Library

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget