

## **Andover Commission on Disability—January 25, 2017 Committee Meeting**

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 6:40 p.m. in the Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level.

**Present:** Chair Julie Pike, Bernadette Lionetta, Justin Coppola Sr., Justin Coppola Jr., and guest David Murphy who dropped in to see what ACOD is all about.

**Minutes** Bernadette made a motion to accept the November 30, 2016 meeting minutes and Justin Sr. seconded. Approved.

### **Old business:**

**Vacancies**—Julie asked members to check the current list of members' information and to make changes as needed.

**My Own Voice**— The commission previously sponsored this chorus group which was formed over 5 years ago, to give children with autism and other disabilities an opportunity to sing with the Treble Choir and attend concerts. This group which started with four children has grown to about fifty. Previously, ACOD sponsored a summer trip to Tanglewood for these chorus members, along with their families, in the amount of \$1782.14 to cover admission, cost of transportation, and snacks.

*Justin Sr. made a motion for ACOD to fund the My Own Voice choir to attend a concert at Tanglewood in 2017 for \$1800. Justin Jr. seconded.*

**MOD Conference call on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>**— Julie participated in this call which lasted about 45 minutes. She reported on the following:

- Commissions on Disability may expand from 9 to 13 members
- By-laws may be affected due to new developments
- ACODs may choose how they want to fund their activities either through imposing fines (from handicap parking violations) or, through town or municipal line items in the budget

A brief discussion followed on the last item, and due to the complications of tracking fines and entering into collection reimbursements, ACOD will continue its current practice of line item requests.

Julie announced that **CAM training sessions** both basic and advanced sessions will take place in Essex County, possibly Haverhill or Swampscott

**Bylaws: Action Item:** Bernadette will edit current ACOD by-laws and send to Julie and then members for review.

### **New Business:**

Julie and Bernadette reported on a meeting with the Deputy Town Manager and Exeter Way neighbors last Wednesday afternoon. 11 Exeter Way is a home on a cul-de-sac off Candlewood Road and is being renovated as a group home for adults with autism. Currently there are 5 gentlemen living there. A private non-profit comprehensive human service organization called Bridgewell is from

Lynnfield and it will run the group home. Neighbors expressed concern that a “business” rather than “home” will be taking up residence on their street and that there may be increased traffic—which led to the meeting. Justin Sr. clarified that group homes like this are under state jurisdiction for regulation and other purposes, rather than the town.

**Projects for the year:** Julie received a letter asking about accessibility in Andover and she sent that individual the “Easy Access” brochure that Ruth Rosensweig (former ACOD member) put together.

Justin Sr. reported that he and Justin Jr. worked on a Draft plan of what “Accessible Andover” would look like and he distributed this draft to the committee. This plan provides a look-back as to where we have been and where we are going on various projects.

Projects residents can join/participate in include the following:

- Project Lifesaver
- EZ Trans Service
- Lock Box
- Basic Access in Every Home
- School/After School –Kids on the Block, My Own Voice

Town Projects Include:

- Municipal Property Site Visits for compliance with American with Disability Act (ADA) and Architectural Access Board (AAB)
- Playgrounds and Trails ADA Accessibility
- Voting Accessibility
- Curb Cuts

Potential upcoming Projects Include:

- Town Yard Accessibility
- ADA Transition Plans Updates as required
- Building Plans and Parking Master Plan coordination with Transition Plan

Justin, Sr. further noted that a Building Needs Assessment report was completed in 2016 prioritizing renovations of buildings in town. It is called the Andover Facilities Master Plan Final Report. **Action Item: ACOD will stay informed about the upcoming plan changes and Julie will check with Candace Hall to get a copy of the Status of the ADA transition plan (Updated in 2012).**

Bernadette explained that ACOD might consider offering IDs (non-driving licenses) to residents who need a form of ID in order to vote. This would make it easier for people with disabilities who may not drive, to get an ID without having to go to the DMV. Bernadette also mentioned that ACOD might look into contacting Andover’s Community Support Services Coordinator Sobhan Namvar to see if there is a need that ACOD could sponsor to support the town’s children or teens. **Action Item: Bernadette will contact Mr. Namvar and Justin Sr. will contact the Center at Punchard regarding the possible ID issue.**

**FY'16 ACOD Annual Report:** Julie distributed activities and programs ACOD was involved with in the last year. The commission reviewed the list. **Action Item:** *Julie will use this list put together the ACOD portion of the Annual Report.*

**Announcements:** Bernadette noted two items of interest from the “Disability Scoop” one is called “Become a Behavior Analyst with NSU’s Graduate Studies Online and one called “New Law Expands Special Needs Trusts, Stakes High in FAPE Case before Supreme Court and More News”.

**Adjournment:** At 8:15 p.m. Justin Sr. made a motion to adjourn Bernadette seconded. Approved.

*Next meeting:*

**February 22, 2017 at 6:30PM**

Respectfully Submitted

Susan McKelliget