

Andover Commission on Disability—February 25, 2017 Committee Meeting

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 9:40 a.m. the Memorial Hall Library, second floor.

Present: Chair Julie Pike, Bernadette Lionetta, Justin Coppola Sr., Justin Coppola Jr., and Donna Gorzela attended as a prospective (and former) member

Minutes Justin Sr. made a motion to accept the January 25, 2017 meeting minutes and Bernadette seconded. Approved.

Old business:

- **Spot Checks--** Julie asked whether there were any known issues to report to Stephen and none were reported.
- **By-Laws—**Bernadette has reviewed the existing by-laws. **Action Item: Members will review by-laws and present further edits at the March meeting.**
- **Projects—**Justin Sr. spoke with Kristine Arakelian Havemayer from the Center at Punchard about getting free government-issued ID cards for people with disabilities. These are offered by the Essex County Sheriff's Office and they would be useful as a means of ID for voting as it means not having to go to the RMV to obtain one. **Action Item: Justin will look into when the next free session for obtaining these IDs will be and notify the commission.**
- Bernadette met with Sobhan Namvar (Andover's Community Support Services Coordinator) to see whether ACOD could assist in providing resources to support his program's mission. Discussion followed about best ways to help given the broad range of age levels involved and it was agreed to allocate monies for Mr. Namvar to use as he sees fit to best help his mission within the community. **Justin Sr. made a motion to allocated \$1K of ACOD monies to Mr. Namvar for the purpose of supporting his mission of community assistance. Justin Jr. seconded. Approved.**
- Julie sent Candace Hall an email regarding the transition plan. ACOD has not heard back from her at this point. Justin Sr. noted that this plan is needed so that ACOD can determine whether there are projects or needs that ACOD may consider funding or supporting.

New Business:

Andover Day Julie reported that Andover Day will be September 9th this year. Discussion followed about whether ACOD should have a table or perhaps share a table with Bernadette who will be hosting a table for "My Own Voice" . If ACOD decides to attend then perhaps giving away little items as other organizations do, would be useful. **Action Item: Members will research ideas for handouts at Andover Days—follow up discussion in March.**

ACOD Budget: A general discussion on funding for the “My Own Voice” trip to Tanglewood this summer followed, and focused on the need to discuss how best to make sure sufficient funds would be encumbered. **Action Item: ACOD will check into the best way to secure funding in time to host this event.**

Julie checked with the Town Clerk about the condition of the handicap voting booths, and he reported that they are still in good condition.

Donna suggested that ACOD may want to look into funding walking sticks which are useful to people with a range of disabilities who may wish to Andover’s trails. The Haggetts’ Pond trail was noted as an example where such assistance would be useful. **Action Item: Bernadette will look into buying walking or trekking sticks-- with the idea that many groups may be interested in them including the Center at Punchard walkers, AVIS, and other groups and individuals. The idea would be to ID the sticks as ACOD property to be returned after use. Bernadette will talk with Bill Fahey about this idea.**

Members talked about having someone come in to talk about disability issues but this evolved into a discussion of instead bringing people to an information group that has a broad range of discussion points on various disability issues. **Action Item: Bernadette will look into whether it makes sense to hire a coach to bring people to the upcoming Abilities Exposition in Boston.**

Announcements:

Julie noted that the Andover Townsman editorial of 2/2/2017 reported on School’s focus on dyslexia and noted an interesting article by Kelly Sutliff in that paper.

Also of note:

Townsman 2/9 2017 page 5. Governor Baker boosts funding for young disabled adults.

Tribune editorial 2/15 2017 Governor Baker gives big boost to those helping disabled.

Adjournment: At 11:05a.m. Justin Sr. made a motion to adjourn. Justin Jr. seconded. Approved.

Next meeting:

March 22, 2017 at 6:30PM

Respectfully Submitted

Susan McKelliget