

Andover Commission on Disability—March 22, 2017 Committee Meeting

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 6:35 p.m. at the Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room

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

Minutes: Justin Sr. made a motion to accept the February 25, 2017 meeting minutes and Steve seconded. Approved.

Old Business:

- **Spot Checks:** Bernadette noted that the walk to Shawsheen Plaza and other areas of town have been difficult to navigate with snow -- blocked sidewalks etc. Steve added that a town engineer is looking into traffic lighting discrepancies, in some cases impacting traffic flow in the uptown area.
- **By-Laws:** There was a general review of the by-laws, and Justin Sr. noted that the first 8 pages are OK as they are, although the sections pertaining to the “clerk” need to be clarified with respect to roles and duties. A statement about when we meet, and that meetings are subject to the Open Meeting rules, will be inserted and members will look into whether these by-laws reflect the substance and meeting rules of Commissions on Disability
- **Projects**
 1. Transition Plan--Julie contacted Candace Hall who is the designated Town ADA Coordinator to request a copy of the transition plan. Justin Sr. noted at the last ACOD meeting that this plan is needed so that the commission can determine whether there are projects or needs that ACOD may consider for funding or support. Candace will send Julie a copy of the transition plan.
 2. Bernadette will reach out to Mary Lyman (a former commission liaison from the town) to see if she is interested in becoming a commission member.
 3. Julie notified Bernadette that \$1K of ACOD funds were transferred to Andover’s Community Support Services Coordinato’sr account to be used at his discretion for community assistance.

4. Julie announced that the town approved the commission's request to encumber \$1800 for the summer 2017 Tanglewood music program. However, Julie noted that in the future, ACOD must use money on foods and services within its fiscal year of July 1 to June 30th.
5. New Member Vote—The commission unanimously elected Donna Gorzela as a member of the commission.
6. Promotional Items for Handouts at events—Members discussed various items to have on hand for Andover Day and other forums. Action Item: Steve will inquire into the purchasing process for the following items: flashlight keychains, combination stylus/pens and walking sticks to be checked out of the senior center.
7. Andover Day –Action Item: members agreed to share a table with another group Bernadette is involved with.
8. Education workshop on Fair Housing law—Justin Sr. noted that this type of workshop would be a good idea to better understand the various legal and regulatory issues on this matter.

- New Business:

Julie noted that Jeff Dougan from the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) announced a Grant Program which will involve disbursement of grants amounting to up to \$250K. Successful applicants must have a proposal to remove barriers and or create and improve accessible features and program access for persons with disabilities through-out the Commonwealth. Applications are due before June 30th Justin Sr. noted 1.) the need for Doherty Middle School elevator ---would require an engineering plan; 2.) Haggetts Pond trail 3.) High Plain Elementary and Wood Hill Middle school field accessibility 4.) Installation of audio enhancements systems in the schools

- **Announcements:**

Julie mentioned a letter from Jeff Dougan announcing that MOD is accepting submissions for 2017 “Call for Art” a juried art exhibition. The original work should capture the theme of “Breaking Barriers” www.mass.gov/mod/art

TRIAD Program (Free Senior Photo IDs and non-Senior Disabled) on Friday May 26, 2017 at 9:30 p.m. Registration required and books at Center for PUNCHARD.

1

A Better Chance will be hosting Astronaut Mae Jemison to Speak at Phillips Academy Andover on Friday March 31 at 7 pm, Open to All

Adjournment: Steve made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Bernadette seconded.
Approved.

Next meeting:

April 26, 2017 at 6:30PM

Respectfully Submitted

Susn McKelliget