

Andover Commission on Disability—July 12, 2017 Committee Meeting

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at 6:33 p.m. at the Memorial Hall Library, second floor

Present: Chair Julie Pike, Joe Connelly, Donna Gorzela, Justin Coppola Sr., Justin Coppola Jr., Bernadette Lionetta and Stephen Surette and guest Town Manager Andrew Flanagan

Minutes: Justin Sr. made a motion to accept the May 24, 2017 meeting minutes and Justin Jr. seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

New Business:

Town Manager Update—Julie introduced Town Manager Andrew Flanagan (as our guest) and member introductions followed. Mr. Flanagan then gave the commission an over view of some upcoming projects that would be of interest to or involve the ACOD. The following are highlights of the town manager’s discussion with members:

- The comprehensive facility study of town offices—intended to maximize accessibility—is going out to bid in the Fall. There is also a feasibility study with a five year out-look , which would involve a multi -million dollar investment in the town’s Center at Punchard (senior center)
- Two town areas will be soon be completely accessible—the playing field on the old Stowe school property and a trail at Haggets Pond. Also, the municipal services facility off River road which will feature ADA- compliant buildings will soon be up and running.
- The Wood Hill and High Plain schools have a September 30, 2017 completion date for ‘inclusive” design changes
- Justin Sr. asked about recent Massachusetts Office of Disability (MOD) grants—one awarding the town \$30K for an accessibility transition plan, and a second \$54,800 grant to fund school –wide audio equipment. Mr. Flanagan responded that the CIP includes design documents for both the senior center and town hall and accessibility findings will drive Joe’s recommendations

during the CIP process. Justin Sr. also asked about whether the town of Arlington had a yearly line item for ADA issues and recommended same for Andover going forward. (Mr. Flanagan noted the ADA background that Joe Connelly brings to these projects based on his previous work with the town of Arlington.)

- There was general agreement about the need to have appropriate inventory of ADA accommodations located in a known “clearinghouse” so that when the need arises at meetings they can be readily available. (The Center at Punchard has some audio equipment and the schools have some at hand.)
- Mr. Flanagan responded to a question about contact personnel for meeting accommodations by clarifying that Wendy Adams is the contact for Selectmen’s meetings and that other meetings should be under the purview of Candace Hall.
- In response to Justin Sr.’s recommendation that now is the time to be thinking of these issues to provide “lead time”, Mr. Flanagan responded that Chairman Salafia is currently in the process of working on liaison assignments to town committees.
- Mr. Flanagan further noted that visible and informative signage through-out the town and town offices is a priority and is already underway.

Old Business

Spot Checks: Justin Sr. reported that there was a missing curb cut at the Town Offices parking lot on the Park side but now it’s paved over. The tactile pads have not yet been installed. Reciprocal curb cut is also missing a tactile pad, and there is a missing curb cut at the Town Offices near Veterans Memorial Auditorium. **Action Item: Stephen will bring these items to Ed Ataide’s attention.** Justin Jr. further noted that the tactile pads are different colors (yellow/red) at the intersection of Chestnut and Bartlet streets. Red pads are only supposed to be used in the downtown area—otherwise they should be yellow. **Action Item: Stephen will handle this issue,**

Andover Day/September 9th 2017: Julie announced that ACOD is registered with ABCA for a table. There is no space on Main St in the Town Hall area. We will be notified of a tentative spot August 29, and of a final spot September 5th. Julie ordered the stylus pen and jar opener which should be delivered soon. We also need to know where handicap parking spaces will be and which town entity is in charge of that.

Vacancies: Steve has been reappointed to the ACOD and Joe Connelly has been appointed and approved for membership to the Commission. **Action Item: ACOD still needs 2 members.**

Triad photo ID event: Justin Sr. noted that this free photo ID took place on May 26th and that there was a decent turn –out. We do not have information on the number of people with disabilities who attended this event-- which allows people to avoid paying the \$25 for an ID at the Registry. Julie passed around her Triad ID and noted there will be a second Triad photo event on October 27, 2017.

Downtown Parking Study talks: Justin Sr. reported that this study has been completed but in his opinion there is still not adequate Handicap Parking (HP) in town. There are 32 HP spots but Justin doesn't have details yet for a full analysis. In some cases there are parking abuses and Justin would like to see some police activity on this matter. Also lacking are adequate van- accessible spots. **Action Item: Justin will continue to meet with the Town Planner and others on this study. Steve will be in touch with Officer Edgerly HP Parking fine signs.**

MVRPC first open house –Town Planner Lisa Schwarz invited ACOD to attend this Regional Housing Open House held on May 24th. The focus was on housing needs in the Merrimack Valley. About fifty people from among the 17 communities involved attended this first meeting. ACOD split its previously scheduled May meeting in order to attend an hour of this event. ACOD presented the “Access” (Ruth) brochure. There will be a second Open House at the Barking Dog Ale House in Haverhill on September 27th which also coincides with the scheduled ACOD September meeting. **Action Item: ACOD decided to hold an August meeting and in lieu of a September meeting, attend the 2d MVRHP Open House in its entirety.**

Adjournment: Bernadette made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. and Stephen seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Next meeting: August 23, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level

Respectfully Submitted
Susan McKelliget