

Andover Commission on Disability—August 30, 2017 Committee Meeting

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 6:28 p.m. at the Memorial Hall Library, second floor

Present: Chair Julie Pike, Joe Connelly, Justin Coppola Sr., Justin Coppola Jr., Bernadette Lionetta and Stephen Surette.

Minutes: Bernadette made a motion to accept the July 12, 2017 meeting minutes and Joe seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

New Business:

Julie reported that ACOD members must take the free **CAM Training** and the next training available is on October 24 & 25 at the Massachusetts School of Law, West Andover and sponsored by the Haverhill Commission on Disability.

Money projects for the year: Stephen reported that he has not had any updates regarding the proposal to make the **trail at Haggetts Pond** accessible with an information kiosk dedicated to Maddy St. Amand. *Action Item: Joe will follow up on this issue with Ellen Townson.*

Justin Sr. said that all of our budget should be spent on fixes recommended by the Transition Plan now underway. He gave an update on the **ADA Transition Plan**. The Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) provided a grant of \$30K to implement ADA-compliant practices and procedures for municipalities and schools. Joe noted that the report will be thorough and provide specific numbers for ADA compliance and best practices. Justin Jr. noted that if, for example, school elevators weren't working then students needing them should not be sent home, to which Joe responded that procedures should be in place and readily available. Justin Sr. reiterated his concern that there should be an accounting of existing audio enhancements or other accommodations which would be accessible to schools and municipal meetings.

Old Business:

Spot Checks: Steve reported that the problem previously brought up by Justin Sr. that there is no curb cut between town offices and Doherty off the parking circle area and that a request for the curb cut has been submitted. Justin Sr. announced his

appreciation of the fact that brush was cleared by DPW on River Street. A sidewalk is being put in the Taylor Cove Drive/River Street area and although there is a curb cut on one side of the road, there is no reciprocal curb cut on the opposite side.

Andover Day: Julie reported that the ACOD table will be in front of Nazarian's on Main street. Julie also announced the various shifts available for sign up starting at 8:30. We will have plenty of flyers on hand describing various ACOD related activities and information. The event is 10-5; set up 7:30 to 9 a.m. No cars back on Main St until 8 PM **Action Item: Joe will check on the status of the PO order for supplies needed for the Andover day event.**

Vacancies: Judy Wakefield was approved as an ACOD member but still needs to be sworn in. ACOD needs one more member. **Action Item: Members asked to consider possible members.**

Triad photo ID event— In May, ACOD supported a free photo ID event for Seniors and non-Seniors with Disabilities making it easier to obtain ID without having to go to the Registry. A second event will take place on October 27, 2017. This time, expenses will be paid for by the Center at Punchard.

Downtown Parking Study talks: Justin, Sr. distributed by email and at the meeting maps and information from Town Planner Lisa Schwarz about what the study is looking for in parking technology. The Parking Plan implementation Committee received funding at Town Meeting to upgrade current parking technology for the three municipal parking lots.

Merrimack Valley Regional Planning Committee (MVRPC) 2nd Open House will be on September 27th. The Purpose is to highlight regional needs concerning housing strategies for the Merrimack Valley. As previously noted there will not be an ACOD September meeting--the open house will substitute for it. The open house will be at the Barking Dog Ale House, 77 Washington St, Haverhill. **Action Item: ACOD members will bring Housing Access Brochures.**

HP Parking Fine Signs: need to be installed. **Action Item: Stephen is responsible for having them installed.**

Announcements:

Julie reported that the North Reading at 72 Main Street now offers Massachusetts Registry Services Monday through Saturday.

Joe reported there was a meeting today on the **Wood Middle School and High Plain Elementary School playing field project** regarding the ramp going to the soccer field which was approved at last years' Town Meeting for \$400K. The Town's recommendation is to wait another year because all 4 bids came in over budget (by about \$200K.) The project will be resent in the fall. (Note: This was reported in this weeks' Townsman.)

Julie and Joe attended the **Andover Community Trust (ACT) Open House** at 168 Haverhill Street last week. This is the 6th home ACT has built with the mission of developing affordable homes to promote economic diversity in Andover. Joe reported that the home seemed well designed with "visitability" features enabling a person with a wheelchair to live there.

Adjournment: Stephen 7:40 p.m. made a motion to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. and Bernadette seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Next meeting: October 25, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level

Respectfully Submitted
Susan McKelliget