

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
April 20, 2011

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Stephen Surette, Gil DeMoore, Ruth Rosensweig, Pat Commane, Julie Pike, Justin Coppola Jr., and Susan McKelliget.

Minutes: The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Julie made a motion to accept the March 23, 2011 minutes. Stephen seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

- ***Andover Master Plan***—Meeting scheduled for May 18th Maddy, Jamie and Pat will attend to review and ensure the disabled population is represented.
- ***Project Lifesaver funding***—Pat has made several calls to her Police Department contact to determine whether this project could use some limited financial assistance from ACOD but there has been no return call to date. ***Action Item: Pat will continue to try to reach the Police Dept. contact.***
- ***Kids on the Block***--- Maddy raised concern that it has been a year since ACOD funded puppets for this school- based production to raise autism awareness but the commission has not been notified of production dates yet. ***Action Item: Bernadette to report to ACOD on status of puppet show productions.***
- ***Parking Survey***—As noted in previous minutes, this years' snowfall prevented final parking measurements from being carried out. ***Action Item:*** Maddy, Julie and Steve will pin down a date to complete line painting. Stephen noted that all curb cuts will be done by July 1, 2011. ***Action Item:*** Maddy will pull together a final report on this issue for submission to the Highway Department and Plant & Facilities Department.
- ***MVRTA/EZ TRANS*** – Justin reported back to the committee his findings regarding changes to the town's medical appointment transportation program. Essentially, a number of community hospitals including the Lahey Clinic, Peabody Hospital, and some Boston Hospitals are now available to the Andover disabled and senior population pending notification of 7 days in advance of the medical appointments. EZ-Trans Vans pick up residents for a fee anywhere in Andover and bring them to the Sr. Center where they are then transported via MVTRA to the out of town hospitals.
- ***Hearing Grants*** —ACOD received information about the Andover Quota Club and financial assistance for the purchase of hearing aids or service animals from Mary Donahue Montbleau. There was some discussion around the "Andover Patch" website about Andover issues/events and whether or not this grant information should be posted on its website.

- ***Color Printers for Doherty /related color toners*** — Maddy reviewed correspondence from Rod Smith, Town Accountant regarding the color printers ACOD funded for the Doherty Middle School special education program. ACOD funded three printers at \$400. each (with \$300. for ink and supplies) for a total of \$1,500., but the bill was for two color printers in the amount of \$1,640.76. Mr. Raymond Tode of Information Systems offset the price difference from his budget. ***Action Item: Maddy will be in touch with Mr. Tode to clarify this matter.*** In addition, we have not yet received acknowledgement of this gift though the award letters were issued on January 30.
- On a side note, Maddy mentioned that ACOD was not on the punch list for the warrant articles for Town Meeting. In years past, we received early notices of the various committees' support of the articles and Maddy has traditionally reviewed the articles to formulate our position. ***Action Item: Maddy will speak with Larry Murphy, the new town clerk, to ensure that we are included next year.***

New Business

- ***Veterans Memorial Auditorium***— Maddy and Ed Ataide spent time walking around the newly- remodeled auditorium to formulate signs needed to indicate the location of handicap accessible spaces in the Bartlet Street lots. Financial support of the signs was voted upon at the last meeting. ***Action Item: Maddy will meet with the Veterans Affairs Director Michael Burke to further review signage issues.***
- ***Shawsheen Plaza***—Maddy met with Michael Russo, project manager for the construction company renovating the new Stop & Shop location at Shawsheen Plaza., as well as the architect who drafted the plans. In mid-May following construction completion and the turn-over of responsibility to Stop and Shop operations, Maddy proposed that we would like to do a final inspection with a commission member who uses a wheelchair. There was some discussion about the automatic doors, the three handicap accessible checkouts, a lower customer service counter in compliance with accessibility requirements, and a first level (vs. the mezzanine) staff room accessible for lockers and lunch for disabled employees. Maddy directly advocated for Stop and Shop to consider a goodwill effort to improve safe access into the parking lot (curb cuts and pedestrian walk) for neighboring housing areas, many of which house elderly citizens. Though this is the responsibility of the landlord of Shawsheen Plaza, the construction personnel will make a strong recommendation to S & S staff and management.
- ***Discussion of Past Funding Proposals:***

Rental of temporary ramps—ACOD will put this concept on hold at this time because of a number of outstanding issues involving ramps

Headphones for schools—Last month, Pat reported that a fire department contact informed her that there may be a need to provide headphones to students who need them, for safe evacuation and or emergencies in the schools. Pat checked on prices and

said they were \$15.00 each but we do not know how many headphones would potentially be needed—or even if in fact they are needed. ***Action Item: At Maddy's request, Julie will raise these issues with a school administrator she knows. Julie will also inquire about the headphones/speakers now used in school for the hearing impaired.***

More Handicap Parking signs—We had previously funded 10 signs indicating the new \$250. fine but Stephen noted that all handicap signs throughout town will be changed in order to be “retro-reflective” and will be funded with police department funds. Further funding from the commission will not be considered.

A brief discussion followed of the impact of the economic situation on new construction and therefore structural reviews by the commission. We are also short of personnel for these and already proposed projects until we review membership time commitment and the position of the chairperson.

Stephen made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Justin. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Next meeting will be May 25, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Activity Room of the Memorial Hall Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget