

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
May 25, 2011

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Ruth Rosensweig, Pat Commane, Julie Pike, guest Francesca Lionetta, and Susan McKelliget.

Minutes: The meeting began at 7:09 p.m. Julie made a motion to accept the April 20, 2011 minutes after making a friendly amendment to change the wording in the April minutes from “Lahey Clinic, Peabody Hospital to “Lahey Clinic at Peabody.” As amended, the motion to approve the minutes was seconded and unanimously approved.

Old Business

Andover Master Plan--- No discussion as the meeting was postponed.

Shawsheen Plaza—Maddy reported that there has been no “walk-through” to date and no further meeting with Mike Russo since her last report on this issue.

Signs for Veterans Memorial Auditorium—Maddy said the handicap parking signs are in and she will have a chance to see them next week when she meets with Ed Ataide, Superintendent of Building Division, Department of Plant and Facilities. Clarification made to the group about handicap parking belonging to the Auditorium and not the Doherty School.

Kids on the Block--- Francesca, Bernadettes’ daughter who is a student at the Doherty school, reported that there are now 6 club members for the 3 puppets and speaking parts have been assigned for the upcoming performance. The show which is a “scripted” presentation about autism, is expected to last about seven or eight minutes, followed by a question and answer session among the presenters and students attending the show. Maddy asked that the ACOD be informed when the final rehearsal is scheduled so that commission members could attend prior to the show going “public”. At this point, there is a possibility for an end of year performance.

Project Lifesaver funding—Maddy talked with Lt. John Pathiakis about ACOD providing funding for a state of the art PLI-3000 receiver for this program. ***Motion:*** Pat made a motion to approve the funding for \$809.50 and Bernadette seconded. Motion passed.

School Headphones funding—A discussion ensued about acquisition of, and potential funding for, noise-canceling headphones for use by students in the elementary and middle schools on IEP plans. Based on a previous discussion between a firefighter and Pat, ACOD became aware of the need for these types of headphones to assist students during fire alarms and other emergencies. ***Motion:*** Pat made a motion to purchase 40 noise- cancelling headphones at \$25.00 each, preferably from a local retailer to be distributed through pupil personnel for the SPED program. Ruth seconded and unanimously approved. Also, Bernadette mentioned that she knows a teacher who is looking for funding for apps to be used

with Apple equipment for the SPED population. **Action Item:** Maddy asked Bernadette to present a statement of need for possible funding.

New Business

Citizen request—ACOD responded to a citizen complaint about safety issues for wheelchair users at Andover Crossing. Maddy made a site visit on May 14th and it was apparent that at least two areas would benefit from yellow or white paint which would alert wheelchair users or people with visual problems to curb irregularities which could lead to a fall. Although this is a private property, Maddy spoke with Chris Cronin, Highway Superintendent, about this issue and he is agreeable to have his department do this work with permission of the private landowner. On another issue, regarding a hole in the sidewalk of the railroad-owned bridge on Main St., Chris Cronin agreed to contact Community Rail of Mass Bay to enlist their permission to complete a temporary repair job so that wheelchair users would not be impeded travelling up Main street over the bridge. The last three curb cuts in our recommendations will be completed this week.

Handicapped Parking Survey—Maddy handed out a copy of the ACOD's Handicap Parking on Public Property memo prepared by ACOD members Maddy, Julie and Stephen. The report explains that site visits provided information about the number of parking spaces and handicap parking spaces at public parking areas in Andover to determine whether the town is in compliance with federal and state requirements. In addition the report shows all public parking spaces and the ratio of handicap to total spaces to determine whether additional spaces are needed as well as observations and recommendations regarding those spaces. Chris Cronin is committed to helping the Plant and Facilities Dept. to rectify the problems outlined in the report especially with respect to line painting and personnel. **Action Item:** Maddy will be meeting with Ed Ataide of Plant & Facilities on this topic next week.

Announcements—Maddy was nominated by Selectman Mary Lyman to be part of a focus group with the Town Planning and Development Director. **Action Item:** The focus group will study the impact of a new development by the Wingate group which seeks to purchase the Franciscan building on River road as part of a multi-stage progressive living complex.

Maddy also mentioned that some ACOD members' terms are coming to an end in June and they will be receiving a letter to this effect. She asked members to let her know whether they wished to stay on so that she will have a better idea of how many new people might need to be recruited through the Town talent bank.

Adjournment -- Julie made a motion to adjourn, Bernadette seconded and so moved.

Next meeting will be June 22, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Activity Room of the Memorial Hall Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget