

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
July 27, 2011

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Justin Coppolla Jr., Gil DeMoor, Stephen Surette, Pat Commane, Bernadette Lionetta, Selectman Mary Lyman and Susan McKelliget.

Minutes: The meeting began at 7:10 p.m. Stephen made a motion to accept the May 25, 2011 minutes with a “friendly amendment” to add Bernadette to those present at the May meeting. June meeting was guest speaker only.

Old Business

ACOD Funding: Project Lifesaver, school headphones, printer:

Maddy opened the meeting with a discussion of ACOD expenditures for FY 2011 outlined in her handout. Essentially, two color printers with supplies were funded for Doherty special needs students which came to \$3,000. A new PLI-3000 receiver for a search car came to \$809.50 for the Project Lifesaver Program which is overseen by Lt Pathiakas. Additional handicap signage for the Veteran’s Memorial Auditorium came to \$216.25 and a Sped educator at Doherty was awarded \$1,295 for additional apps for new programs.

Pat and Maddy worked out pricing for noise cancelling headphones to be stocked within schools for special education students and came up with a total amount \$1,199.60. Despite a sustained and concerted effort on Pat and Maddy’s part to contact certain parties through phone calls and emails prior to submission of ACOD’s budget, the parties did not respond to ACOD in a timely manner and the headphones were not funded.

Mary Lyman asked about the status of Stop and Shop with regard to handicap accessibility issues. Maddy and other ACOD members visited the premises which at that time were in the earlier stages of opening in June, and the members were assured that additional measuring and stripe painting of spaces for handicap parking—especially handicap van parking—would occur in the near future. Additionally, more signage is needed within the store regarding food allergies and the like. Maddy sent a letter regarding the Stop and Shop handicap access issues to commission members and town officials earlier this summer.

New Business

Citizen Complaint—Sovereign Bank:

A Sovereign Bank manager contacted Maddy recently about a citizens’ complaint regarding wheelchair accessibility at the North Main street office. Maddy contacted the person to hear what the issues were and took the opportunity to help the citizen understand some of the legal requirements involved. Maddy subsequently drafted a follow-up letter to the bank manager highlighting the main concerns such as the difficulty wheel-chair bound persons have opening the door to enter the bank, inaccessibility of the banks’ ATM by people who rely on assistive devices, inaccessible customer service counters, and the need for additional handicap signs on the building. *Action item:* Maddy is in the process of finalizing the letter and copying it to appropriate town officials.

Maddy presented a 2011 and 2012 ACOD meeting calendar to the members to check on the upcoming meeting dates. Members agreed to cancel the December meetings for these two years and ***Bernadette then made a motion to cancel the August 24, 2011 meeting seconded by Justin.***

There was brief discussion about curb cut issues at Frye Village causing access problems.
Action Item: Steve and Allie will check into this issue prior to any action.

Adjournment – Bernadette made a motion to adjourn, Pat seconded and so moved.

Next meeting will be September 28, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Activity Room of the Memorial Hall Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget