

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. Motion seconded by Justin. 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 police search car came to \$809.50 for the Project Lifesaver Program which is overseen by Lt John 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. Members were assured that the parking lot was due to be repaved, followed by stripe painting of spaces for handicap parking—especially handicap van parking. 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. Commission members were copied by e-mail.

New Business

Citizen Complaint—Sovereign Bank:

A wheelchair user contacted Maddy recently regarding wheelchair inaccessibility at the North Main street office of the Sovereign Bank. After hearing of the difficulty entering the premises, Maddy met with Kevin Peck, one of the managers. He was very understanding of the difficulty, including the inaccessibility of the ATM service to people using assistive devices. Internally, they had already discussed moving the small ATM cubicle. Maddy subsequently drafted a follow-up letter to the bank manager (to be forwarded to corporate facilities management) 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 to move the meetings that conflicted with school vacations. ***Bernadette then made a motion to cancel the August 24, 2011 meeting, seconded by Justin.***

There was brief discussion about curb cut issues at a driveway near Frye Village causing access problems for pedestrians on Main Street. **Action Item:** Steve will check into this issue and add it to the DPW correction list.

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

Announcement: In view of our not meeting in August, please check your e-mails for updates or requests for input to the chair. Thank you!