

Meeting Minutes  
Andover Commission on Disability  
September 28, 2011

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Gil DeMoor, Julie Pike, Stephen Surette, Bernadette Lionetta, and Susan McKelliget. There was not a quorum and therefore no formal votes were taken tonight.

Minutes: Meeting called to order at 7:02. Stephen made a motion to accept the July 27, 2011 minutes; the motion was seconded by Julie and unanimously approved.

Old Business

- **Kids on the Block**—Bernadette reported that the Doherty school teacher involved with this project has retired. *Action Item: Bernadette will update ACOD when the program gets started under a new teacher.*
- **Bancroft School**—Maddy asked for a commission member to follow the progress of the Bancroft school building plans in view of our focus on accessible buildings. *Action item: Bernadette will monitor on line activities or decisions by the building committee and keep ACOD informed of any updates.*
- **Stop & Shop**—Maddy followed up with John Marquesi, the assistant manager of Stop and Shop, about the spring commitment to pave and re-stripe the parking lot. The work was intended for this fall but the work date is unknown. John agreed to keep us in the loop of information. *Action item: Maddy will continue follow up.*
- **Sovereign Bank**—As noted during previous minutes, Maddy spoke with Kevin Peck, a manager at the Shawsheen Plaza Sovereign site, in response to a citizen's complaints regarding wheelchair accessibility to the ATM machine and entry through the bank via heavy doors. As a result of our correspondence to the corporate office, Maddy was contacted by Peter Barbera, Senior Facilities Manager for Sovereign. They have engaged Denver Associates, an architectural firm to move the very small ATM booth to the vestibule area and to convert both sets of doors at the main entrance to power doors. They have also agreed to a lower service desk at the teller's booth. *Action Item: Maddy will keep in touch with Kevin Peck and Peter Barbera regarding these access improvements.*
- **Railroad Crossing**—A few months ago, Jamie Cope fell in her wheelchair at the Dundee park railroad track crossing. Maddy then contacted Chris Cronin to facilitate a discussion with Community Rail of Mass Bay as to what caused the problem and to determine how to prevent future incidents. *Action Item: Stephen will follow up on this issue as Essex Street has recently been paved and the problem may be resolved. Maddy will contact Jami for her input on the improvement.*
- **Handicap Parking Survey**—Maddy spoke with Ed Ataide and reported that painting and revision of handicap parking spots at the High School have been finished and the municipal lots are due to have handicap striping next week. *Action Item: Stephen will keep ACOD informed about the progress of handicap parking painting as it is completed.*

## New Business

- **SPED headphone funding**—Referring back to a consideration from the last fiscal year, Maddy asked for and received the commissions' verbal approval (no vote taken) to consider budgeting \$1100. or so for noise deafening earphones to be used by students in the school's Special Ed program in the event of fire alarms and the like.
- **Playgrounds**—Maddy circulated photos of the South School playground where Ed Ataide completed a handicap playground area with state of the art equipment. The Ballardvale playground has been shut down due to water, insect, equipment issues and ACOD anticipates being involved in the playground equipment design when it re-opens at some point in the future. We have supported this renovation for several years.
- **Rite Aid**—A citizen contacted Maddy as she had difficulty opening the doors while in her wheelchair. Maddy explained that power operated doors are not mandated under the ADA law, but since it is fairly inexpensive to install these doors, she would contact the Rite Aid corporate offices and bring the matter to their attention. **Action Item:** *Maddy will write a letter regarding the desirability of installing power doors at this location.*
- **Harding Street**--The same citizen also told Maddy that she cannot cross Main street from the corner of Stevens street due to a steep dip at the curb in front of Paradise Flowers at the corner of Harding and Main streets. This area was reviewed at the time of the Main Street Project and cannot be changed due to lack of space which is a mix of public and private land. After a site visit and research, a letter is always sent to the resident who brought this to the commission's attention.
- **Post Office at Old Town Hall**—Ed Ataide received a report from the United States Postal service describing changes it wants the Town to pay for within the Old Town Hall Post Office, which it leases.(for \$1./year). The changes, which include removal of the granite front stairs for easier access, cutting the mahogany counter to eye level , and additional handrails and kick plates at the handicap entrance which are not required by ADA regulations, but are rather changes favored by the U.S. Postal Service's architect/engineer. Maddy and Justin Jr. made a site visit with Ed Ataide, reviewing the citations. As representatives of the commission, we confirmed that the Town is in full compliance with the ADA law and ACOD recommendations, notably because it is an historical building and there is no renovation over \$100,000. in progress. Ed will be responding to the report and we will assist in any further corroborations.
- **Post Office at Stevens Street** – Citizen complaints regarding heavy doors made several years ago as well as this year was brought up by Maddy. The doors require power paddles so that people using wheelchairs and walkers can open the doors. **Action Item:** *Maddy is preparing a letter to the post-master citing access problems with this door dating back to 2008.*
- **Curb Cut Sub-Committee**—Maddy pulled old curb cut files dating back to 2006 with relevant information including reports, maps, and plans for use by Julie and Stephen to review and list as they continue with their curb cut efforts. **Action Item:** *Julie and Stephen will prepare a report for Chris Cronin citing our recommendations for this year.*

### Announcements

- **Terms on commission--**Gil expressed his interest in continuing as a commission member and will need to be sworn in by the town clerk. ACOD is actively seeking a new member to take Jami's place due to her resignation. Jami wishes to continue as an honorary member to assist with special tasks and projects. She will continue to receive copies of the minutes.
- **Chair-**Maddy announced that she is willing to mentor and assist any prospective commission member who would be willing to be Chairperson in the future

### Adjournment

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

**Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 25, 2011 @ 7 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget