

Meeting Minutes  
Andover Commission on Disability  
October 26, 2011

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Ruth Rosensweig, Justin Coppola Jr., Pat Commane, and Susan McKelliget. There was no quorum and therefore no formal votes were taken.

Minutes: Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m. Ruth made a motion to accept the September 28, 2011 minutes. Seconded by Justin Jr. and unanimously approved.

Old Business

- **Kids on the Block**—The three puppets purchased a few years back as part of a new middle school autism awareness program, were supposed to be used in the 2010-2011 school year at the Doherty Middle School. We have recently learned that the teacher who was originally going to work with the Best Buddies Program to produce the puppet shows is no longer available to take on this project. Since the ACOD puppet purchase was a significant portion of its budget, and the program was intended as an educational tool sponsored by ACOD, Maddy intends to inquire further into the matter by writing to the Superintendent of Schools.
- **Sovereign Bank**—Maddy reported that Mike Haggerty from the Boston Architectural Firm—Ginsler Corporation—notified her that the remaining access modifications to the Shawsheen Plaza Sovereign Bank branch (detailed in previous minutes) will be completed by the first of the year. ACOD may plan some type of public relations event to credit the bank's response to the issues presented, and to highlight the advocacy work of ACOD.
- **Railroad Crossing**—Maddy contacted Jamie Cope (who reported a fall from her wheelchair at the Essex street railroad crossing) to inform her that the area where she fell has recently been re-paved and it is assumed that this would prevent future problems in that particular spot. Maddy has not heard back from Jamie to date.

New Business

- **Curb Cut Sub-Committee**—Steve and Julie are the sub-committee members. Steve recently reported to Maddy that all the curb cut ramps from 390-394 North Main street, Cuba street and Frye Circle have been finished. Steve offered a suggestion for a proposed project to include “spot problems” in the future-- for example; snow removal for certain sidewalk routes where people with disabilities are known to traverse, or known drive way obstructions and the like, for the disabled.

Project Brainstorming

- **Background**—Maddy compiled a history of the status of ACOD Projects to date. The history includes: *ADA compliance issues for public and private buildings*; *Braille signage*; *Programs and Projects*; and *Education and Advocacy Events sponsored by ACOD*. (See Attached two-page addendum). Each subject on the list is identified as either “completed”, “ongoing”, or “sponsored and transferred”. The second page of the addendum includes proposed projects that ACOD is considering going forward.
- **Formerly proposed projects**—There was some discussion about past outreach efforts and the need to continue to collaborate with peers such as the Overlay Task Force, Council on Aging, Triad, the Housing Authority and the Senior Center, to better identify issues facing the population ACOD seeks to serve.
- **Open forum**—There was a general consensus that the commission would like to invite a guest speaker to an early 2012 ACOD meeting and members agreed to look into possible speakers for a forum or workshop on issues relevant to the ACOD’s mission.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 30, 2011 @ 7 PM

Adjournment Pat made a motion to adjourn, Justin Jr., seconded and so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget