

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
May 26, 2010

Present: Gilbert DeMoor, Julie Pike, Maddy St. Amand, Ruth Rosensweig, Stephen Surette, (ACOD nominee) and Susan McKelliget.

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm. Julie moved to accept the April 21, 2010 minutes. Seconded by Ruth and unanimously passed.

Maddy introduced the newest ACOD nominee--Stephen Surette, an Andover resident who is a Town Highway Department employee. He is familiar with street and parking striping, local project management and has great organizational skills. Julie moved that we accept the report of the nominating committee pending full vote of the Board, and Gil seconded. Maddy will poll members who were not in attendance today for their vote after the meeting

Old Business

- **Final Curb Cut Review**—Justin Sr. and Julie met with Chris Cronin (DPW) in April to make sure curb cuts were complete (accessible and appropriate). At this time, Poor Street needs a patch, a North Main Street driveway/road area needs work, and an area near the Burke funeral home needs work. When finished, No.Main street from No. Reading to Rte. 495 will be ADA compliant.
- **Transition Plan and Master Plan**—Master plan last completed in 1997 mainly as a long term planning guide. Jami and Maddy will represent ACOD in upcoming town meetings.
- **Kids on the Block**—Puppet shows will be scheduled for the Fall. Bernadette will report on this.

New Business

- **Distribution of the Visitability flyer**—Ruth researched and introduced this concept of homes with basic access such as one entrance with zero steps to the ACOD. This “education” goal of ACOD was well received by Lisa Swartz of the Planning Department and may be presented to the committee drafting the Master Plan.
- **Tour of West Elementary regarding Braille signs**—ACOD agreed to fund \$3,800 for Braille sign plates for each room which were not originally installed. Maddy, Justin Sr., and Ed Ataide of the (Town’s Plant and Facilities department) toured the school and it is now ADA compliant.
- **Handicap Parking** –Although the town handles ticketing, it allows two people from the commission to ticket violators of HP spaces. Julie photographs and issues tickets if she sees any violations. Stephen has agreed to volunteer in this capacity. Maddy will meet with both Julie and Stephen to conduct an orientation to the program.

- **Advocacy case**—On occasion an individual in the community will contact ACOD on a disability issue. After a recent call, Maddy is currently exploring ways to help a resident understand the basics of how she may be able to solve her problem.
- **Discussion of goals—Access projects**—will always be part of ACOD’s goals as they fundamental and also concrete issues that people readily understand.
- **PROJECTS ON HOLD:**
 - **Ballardvale playground in design phase**—Due to fiscal constraints, the sub-committee will hold off on making further access plans.
 - **Bancroft School construction**—Construction will be at least two years and ground breaking will be this Fall. ACOD will be involved in tracking access issues from the beginning.
 - **Shawsheen Plaza**—ACOD will follow for access/parking issues in the upcoming months.
 - **Restaurant study on hold**—ACOD went to every business on Main street to check for access issues. After the Main Street Project was completed, there seemed to be less interest in branching out to Park and Barnard streets or to local restaurants. Hopefully, the latter will be completed in the future.

Announcements

At the July 28 ACOD meeting, Jeff Dougan from the Massachusetts Office on Disability will be attending to find out what resources or information from the State Office on Disability may be of interest to the commission. We will not be meeting this August.

Julie brought an article from a May 20th article in the Tribune about an advocacy group for the disabled that filed a federal civil rights complaint over Massachusetts’ handling of a drinking water crisis earlier in the month. The complaint involved lack of communication and response problems with the disabled and elderly.

Adjournment

Julie moved that we adjourn; Ruth seconded and so moved.
Next meeting will be June 23.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget