

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
June 23, 2010

Present: Gilbert DeMoor, Justin Coppola, Jr., Julie Pike, Maddy St. Amand, Ruth Rosensweig, Stephen Surette, Pat Commene, Mary Lyman and Susan McKelliget.

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. Julie moved to accept the May 26, 2010 minutes with an amendment noting that Justin Sr. and Julie *emailed* Chris Cronin rather than met with him. Seconded by Steve and unanimously passed.

Old Business

- **Handicap Parking Committee update-** Maddy reported that Stephen has joined Maddy and Julie on this committee. Recently, Massachusetts law changed from a \$100 fine to a \$250 fine for handicap parking violations. ACOD paid for ten 9” x 12” signs that post this notice of the higher fine on the same pole as the HP designation. While not mandatory by law it was seen as an educational outreach and a visual deterrent.
- **Close of the fiscal year**—Maddy reported that the West Elementary Braille room signs came to over \$3,000 out of ACOD’s \$4,853. budget. Funding for previous Senior Center plantings came to \$74.25 (a second bill for plantings is estimated to cost around \$65.00); the above mentioned handicap parking violation signs came to \$325.90; name badges for new members cost \$40.

New Business

Handicap Parking Van—Maddy reported that new measurements are needed for van accessible handicap parking crosshatches and specs—a project that Justin Sr. and Justin Jr. initiated. **Action Item:** The Handicap Parking Committee will complete needed measurements and recommendations for municipal spaces first (including schools), then inform owners of private parking lots, including the new Stop & Shop.

Foster’s Pond Parking with Conservation Committee—Town Meeting passed a \$480,000 article to purchase a parcel of land off Foster’s Pond road leading to the shore. There is also a grant application in place to receive half of that amount back to the town. **Action Item:** The HP Parking subcommittee will meet with Steve Cotton who is both a member of the Conservation Committee and an area resident, to view the proposed site. The committee will attempt to determine if they can provide appropriate measurements for a landscape architect to sketch the area to be included in the grant application. The Conservation Committee has also asked ACOD to provide feedback on handicap access between the parking lot and shoreline and any other areas that would otherwise be accessible to the public.

Verizon Community Outreach—Tom Boudrow from Verizon Center for Customers with Disabilities contacted Maddy recently. Verizon is the only cable TV and phone computer hook-up company with a designated department and special discounts for the disabled population. Tom is doing outreach to Commissions on Disabilities on the various services offered. Maddy asked members whether ACOD should endorse Tom's efforts and be a liaison to the Town for further educational outreach. Specifically, it was proposed that Tom present his available programs at a fall meeting of the commission with the public invited to the presentation. Discussion ensued about next steps such as making the public aware of this talk through cable TV and an article in the Townsman. Stephen suggested contacting Wes Murphy from Andover Access-- the Town's cable TV station.

Action Item: Maddy will send an e-mail to related service agencies when the talk is scheduled, contact Tom Boudow about a date, and later contact Wes Murphy and the Townsman..

Meeting with MOD in July—Jeff Dougan from the Massachusetts Office on Disabilities plans to attend the ACOD July meeting to inform us about their lobbying efforts with respect to State level initiatives in the Disabilities area. He is also interested in learning first hand about issues and activities concerning ACOD. **Action Item:** ACOD members will think about issues to bring up at next month's meeting.

Adjournment

Stephen moved that we adjourn; Gil seconded and so moved.
Next meeting will be July 28, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget