

Meeting Minutes  
Andover Commission on Disability  
September 22, 2010

Present: Maddy St. Amand, Justin Coppola Jr., Ruth Rosensweig, Bernadette Lionetta, and Susan McKelliget.

Minutes: The meeting began at 7:05 p.m. Bernadette made a motion to accept the July 28, 2010 minutes, Justin seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved. Justin then made a motion to move the question on corrections to the July minutes as follows: *Maddy and Stephen* are also on the handicap parking sub-committee along with Julie. The fine for handicap parking is \$250 per violation. So moved and unanimously voted.

Old Business

- **Project Lifesaver** -- Officer John Pathiakis was recently promoted to Lieutenant and will no longer be the contact person on this project. Bernadette will continue to be ACOD's liaison. **Action Item:** Bernadette will contact the new officer assigned to Project Lifesaver when the appointment is made and inquire as to the number of families in the program.
- **Kids on the Block**— One of the key educational goals this year is to ensure that the puppet shows will commence no later than the spring semester of the school year. **Action Item:** Bernadette will continue to work with school staff to set up clubs for the children to produce the plays. ACOD members plan to attend a dress rehearsal prior to the first production.
- **Visitability Concept**—The second educational goal for the year will be promoting the concept of building new residential housing outfitted with access for the disabled (and others) with no step entries for a better quality of life and allowance of more visitation. An article was submitted to the Townsman on August 12 and we hope it will introduce the concept to Andover. **Action Item:** Ruth will research town records and contact a real estate agent to determine whether a recently built residence on Lovejoy Road is being built as a "visitability" home. If so, ACOD would then attempt to showcase the house (if the owners agree) as a role model for visitability homes in a feature article. Ruth also noted that the town of Natick passed a resolution to promote development of visitability homes by reducing the cost of building permits by one dollar for every one thousand dollars spent. **Action Item:** Ruth will continue to research the process used in Natick to get the resolution passed.
- **Van Handicap Parking Survey**—There is much work to be done to properly review handicap parking spaces (especially van accessible spaces) throughout the town. Maddy, Julie and Stephen have completed the measuring and surveying the 18 town parking lots and have found inadequate spaces, problems with cross-hatching used as pedestrian walks, missing poles where signage should be displayed, and lack of

painting due to budget cuts. While the data on 18 locations is being compiled, they are also verifying the number of HP spaces proportionate to the entire parking lot as mandated by ADA regulations. Maddy developed a form to identify the number of parking spots in town-owned (municipal, school, police etc.) parking lots and has requested a SCRIPT volunteer from the senior center as a resource to help with counting spaces.

### New Business

- **Andover Day/Know Your Town** – This event takes place this Saturday, however, ACOD members are unable able to attend this event and therefore will not be reserving a booth. We will attempt to cover a booth at the town's health fair later in the year.
- **CAM Training in Chelmsford Town Offices**—Part of ACOD's mission is to train members to understand the practical aspects and governing regulations around access issues. *Action Item:* Stephen and Ruth are planning to attend this meeting. Julie and Maddy will also attend as a review for their work. Bernadette will attend a CAM training in the future. The Commission pays for the minimal tuition costs and expenses.
- **Project Sponsorship in 2011** – Discussion of sponsored projects which are generally in the area of accommodation, education, or new efforts. Specifically, ACOD is looking for start up activities or new needs for the disabled that require seed money to get up and running. Current ACOD Budget is about \$4,000. Bernadette mentioned the need for a color laser printer for the Doherty SPED program, recommended last year. Maddy noted that this seems to fall within the responsibilities of the school department to fund. If we were to consider such a request, the specs would need to be justified. Braille signs were briefly discussed.
- **Announcement--** Maddy spoke with editor Neil Fater about publishing an announcement in the Townsman (rather than an advertisement) about the public meeting on Oct. 27 at 7 pm in the Activity Room of the Memorial Hall Library. Prior to the business meeting, Tom Boudrow, a manager at the Verizon Center for Customers with Disabilities will explain the company's efforts to assist customers with vision, cognitive, mobility, speech or hearing disabilities to assist with communication and technology needs.
- **Other**—Maddy got a call from an aluminum ramp salesman who was marketing their products for rent or purchase. A discussion ensued about the use of aluminum or metal ramps in general, with Justin being vehemently opposed. Maddy raised the issue as to whether used ramps could be purchased by town housing authorities at a discounted rate and therefore installed more quickly to accommodate chair users in public housing when requested.  
*Action Item:* Justin will look into whether aluminum ramps would be allowed by governing regulations.

Current ongoing activities:

- **Fosters Pond**—ACOD cannot provide architectural access plans as had been requested by the Conservation Committee and will wait to hear further about assisting with planning for handicap parking paces at this newly proposed park.
- **Bancroft School**-- ACOD is on the “punch list” for approval of access issues as plans develop. This will require considerable time to review architectural drawings as we did with the schools and is directly related to our CAM training.

Adjournment

Ruth made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bernadette.

Next meeting is October 27

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget