

Meeting Minutes
Andover Commission on Disability
October 27, 2010

Present: Maddy St.Amand, Justin Coppola Jr., Ruth Rosensweig, Bernadette Lionetta, Stephen Surette, Julie Pike, Gil DeMoor, and Susan McKelliget.

Maddy presented guest speaker Tom Boudrow, Outreach Specialist from the Verizon Center for Customers with Disabilities. He discussed various technologies available with phones (voice/TTY and videophones), closed caption television, and the internet for people who are deaf, or have a hearing, vision, cognitive, speech or mobility disability. Commission members raised questions and Mr. Boudrow explained many of the finer points of Verizon/FIOS TV services for people with disabilities.

Minutes: The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Julie made a motion to accept the September 22, 2010 minutes. Bernadette seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved. So moved and unanimously approved.

Old Business

Updates on the four ongoing programs are tabled to the next meeting due to time constraints:

- Project Lifesaver
- Kids on the Block
- Visitability
- Van HP Survey

New Business

Disabled Parking Regulations – Ruth discovered a Boston Globe transportation article which discussed complexities concerning HP plates, tags and Disabled Veteran Plates with respect to parking time limits, fines and the like. She then researched these issues working with Officer Hashem and Jeff Dougan of the Massachusetts Office on Disability.

Her research clarified that State law allows any driver with a HP placard, an HP plate, or a Disabled Veteran plate to park for free at any parking meter, without a time limit, anywhere in Massachusetts. Since there seems to have been some inconsistencies on how these matters are handled practically in town, there may be an opportunity for ACOD to engage in public education around the issue of parking, time limits, and whether fines should be imposed for parking in the various public and private lots.

Action Item: Maddy will follow through with the Police Department regarding the issues discussed at the meeting tonight to ensure that all parties are in agreement with respect to the letter and spirit of the law.

Project Sponsorship Maddy asked the commission to focus on possible projects to be sponsored this year. This is always in the form of seed money on a one-time-only basis available for projects to help people with disabilities.

Action item: Members will be prepared at the next meeting to propose new concepts with price points so that various ideas can be discussed for a vote.

Maddy distributed a town calendar for 2010 and the recent Townsman article called “Disability Commission makes call for homes without front steps”, with input from Ruth and Maddy on the Visitability Project.

The next meeting will be on December 8th 2010 for a November/December meeting due to the next four Wednesdays falling a few days before the Holidays.

Gil made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. and Steve seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget