

**Town of Acton  
Commission on Disability  
Minutes  
September 9, 2010  
Acton Town Hall, Faulkner Room 204  
7:00 pm**

**Members Present:** Danny Factor, Lisa Franklin, Chair, Joy Kohout, Brenda Viola, Secretary.

**Associate Member Present:** John Brako.

**Guests:** Mike Gowing, Board of Selectman Liaison and Paul Turner, COA, Merrily Evdokimoff, Administrator of The Acton Public Health Nursing Service, Laura Ducharme, Community Services Coordinator and Heather Hurley, Clinical Manager of the Acton Public Health Nursing Service.

**Guest Presenter:** Ann Burgess, Advocacy and Resource Coordinator of the New East Recovery Learning Community

The Meeting was called to order by Chair, Lisa Franklin at 7:00 pm.

**Topics:**

**Minutes from August 12th** were reviewed and approved as written.

**Handicapped Parking Fines and Letter to Steve Ledoux, Town Manager:** Danny reported on findings from phone calls to surrounding towns concerning the amount of their parking fines. He was unable to reach Carlisle. Concord, Westford, Boxboro, Littleton and Sudbury are \$100. Stow is \$50. and Maynard is \$200. It is clear that Acton is out of line with these surrounding towns. Danny proposed we raise Acton's fine to \$50. Discussion ensued concerning repeat offenders, dismissal of fines and then education to those needing permanent and temporary Acton placards. A motion and unanimous vote given to suggest to Town Manager an increase to \$100. fine for a Handicapped Parking Violation. Another vote was taken and approved changes in the letter to be sent to Steve Ledoux.

**Reminder: Open Meeting Law Training** to be held on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the High School Auditorium.

**Presentation by Ann Burgess, Advocacy and Resource Coordinator of the New East Recovery Learning Community:** Ann gave an overview of the Recovery Learning Program and its resources based out of Lawrence. This program services people with mental health issues. More information can be accessed via their website [www.nilp.org](http://www.nilp.org) or email [aburgess@nilp.org](mailto:aburgess@nilp.org). Phone is voice/TTY: 978-687-4288x128.

Heather, Merrily and Laura joined the discussion with Ann to see how we can best serve the mental health needs of Acton citizens. All agreed that once a person is identified then they should be directed to the Community Services then to Public Health Nursing Service then to NE Recovery and Learning Community as appropriate.

Ann was asked for suggestions for Town's Shelter in Emergency Preparedness. She promotes radical acceptance of people with mental health issues. Medication would be available through the Red Cross.

**Projects for FY 2011:** Tabled.

**WAVE Variance:** Mathias Rosenfeld relayed to Lisa that the variance was granted. Details to follow.

**LRTA/Minute Van:** Mike presented the new Minute Van (accessible) in Acton. More info. on Homepage [minutevan.net](http://minutevan.net). There are two functions of the van:

- 1.) Train Shuttle: from West Acton Center, parking behind Fire Station (near Theatre III). Ticket Books are available for \$250./year for Acton residents, \$500. for out of town residents.
- 2.) Dial-A-Ride: for anyone to call at anytime (like a taxi). The cost will be \$2. one way within Acton, \$3. one way out of town this will cover trips to Emerson Hospital, Concord Hillside, and Maynard Center). This will start at 7 am until 9 pm. The Dial-A-Ride begins October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Restaurant Complaints:** A woman from Littleton has called to complain of the lack of accessible bathrooms at Scupper Jacks, Il Fornos, and Atlantic Sea Grill. Lisa responded to the complaint.

**Oktoberfest (October 2<sup>nd</sup>):** A motion was made and approved by vote to work on outside of open meeting.

**AAB Training (October 13<sup>th</sup>):** A motion was made and approved by vote to work on outside of open meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Viola, Secretary