

**Town of Acton  
Commission on Disability  
Minutes  
January 13, 2011  
Acton Town Hall, Room 126  
7:00 pm**

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

**Member Absent:** Joy Kohout (Excused).

**Associate Member:** John Brako

**Guests:** Mike Gowing, Board of Selectman Liaison, Juana Galeas and Ann Marie Brako

The Meeting was called to order by Chair, Lisa Franklin at 7:20 pm.

**Topics:**

**Requests from Public:**

-Massachusetts State Legislative Breakfast is March 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Disabilities Rights Day) at the Nurse Stairway in the State House from 10:30 to 12 noon.

-Regional Transportation Group member is applying for a grant for a software program that can coordinate and track vans for same day service.

-A nonprofit disability rights group is performing a study on accessible shopping. They are looking for people to report on their personal experiences. Email address is

-*Safety Net* is updated and being distributed through town offices.

**Minutes from December 9th** were reviewed and approved with corrections.

**Handicapped Parking Space on Route 111 in West Acton Center:** A parallel HP space has been requested by a citizen. After review and discussion, it was determined that any parallel spaces are not compliant. A motion was carried unanimously to respond to citizen in writing.

**Open Door Theater:** A citizen reported their disappointment that the theater no longer advertises the inclusion element in their outreach. Lisa will contact one of the theater's board members to discuss this omission.

**“The Beacon”:** It has been suggested to provide reporters of the Beacon with some informal education on People with Disabilities. Lisa suggested ordering a pamphlet Writing and Reporting on PWD. We were reminded of Joy's previous suggestion to write a monthly column in the Beacon. Danny suggested contacting “Patch” an electronic newspaper. His contacting “Patch” was approved. Another suggestion was to reach out to “The Forum.”

**SPEDPAC:** Discussion determined we will contact them. We need to ask them how the COD can assist them whether it is accommodations, access, social groups, etc.

**Dining Guide:** It was voted unanimously to produce an updated Dining Guide. We discussed process. New suggestions were to print some large print guides, add information for hearing impaired especially access to TTY when calling in for reservations. Brenda will gather preliminary steps of process to share with members.

**Disability Survey:** The survey needs to be coded for data entry to be completed. Members will do the coding on the forms. Each of us needs to go to Frank's office and pick up some forms then code *1 for Yes and 0 for No*.

**Updates on Projects:**

**-Community Outreach:** Danny has reached about ½ the people on his list. More people are interested in a social group and community.

**-Access Compliance and Barrier Removal:** Unresolved issues at Moodz and Midas Auto Service (Great Road) need input from Frank Ramsbottom

**-Transportation Guide:** working on list of Taxis to contact.

**Public Health Department:** Cheryl Ball received a grant and is asking for ideas. Some proposed ideas were:

-emergency evacuation transportation for PWD, e.g. designating one driver

-purchasing emergency preparedness back packs

-perform a survey to identify PWD or anyone who does not drive or have transportation.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Viola, Secretary