

**Town of Acton
Commission on Disability
Minutes
March 10, 2011
Acton Town Hall, Room 206
7:00 pm**

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

Member Absent: Joy Kohout (Excused).

Associate Members: John Brako

Guests: Mike Gowing, BOS Liaison, Frank Ramsbottom, Building Commissioner, Town Liaison and Ann Brako

Documents:

Planning/Zoning 2-14-11 on Permit 030527: Furniture Plan for Savoury Lane, 251 Arlington Street.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Article 33* Amend Town Bylaws-Handicapped Parking. and Article 34* Amend Town Bylaws-Non-Criminal Disposition Handicapped Parking.

The Meeting was called to order by Chair, Lisa Franklin at 7:15 pm.

Minutes from February 10th were reviewed and approved with corrections.

Topics:

Frank Ramsbottom gave updates on the following:

Savoury Lane: He reviewed floor plan specifically counter, bar, stools, banquette seating, and tables. The renovations comply with the building codes. Renovations of the bathrooms were not triggered. A suggestion was made for Danny and Frank to visit the owner for a discussion to improve accessibility of the bathrooms.

Acton Coffee House: Accessible bathrooms are not being added since a building permit was not required for the renovations. However, clarification is needed if the bathroom is indeed open to the public. Suggestion was made for Danny to contact the owner.

Midas: Concrete slab does not have correct slope according to today's regulations. It is in disrepair and will need to be fixed. The handicapped parking space could be relocated. Frank will evaluate the space and the slope in May/June.

Harmony's Café and Market (263 Main Street): The building is in compliance. COD has concerns that the café and market areas are overcrowded with merchandise presenting barriers in aisles. A building inspector will be sent to inform the owner to clear aisles of obstructions.

Handicapped Parking Signs: Inform Scott Mutch, Zoning Enforcement Officer of signs that need to be posted or need to be placed on posts. Send him an email smutch@acton-ma.gov

Doug Halley was unable to attend our meeting tonight.

Emergency Evacuation Plan: He has informed us that the Emergency Plans are out of date. His suggestion is for the town to hire a professional to design a new plan. His idea will be voted on at Town Meeting.

Surveys: Another section of the surveys were coded. A list is still being compiled of people who want to be contacted by the COD. The next step will be the data entry.

West Acton Handicapped Parking Space: Brenda spoke with the AAB and the MOD. An on street parking space is not within the jurisdiction of the AAB. The MOD has stated there are no regulations governing on street parking except the space must be located next to a curb cut. Discussion brought up some concerns of parking on Route 111 in West Acton's business district. Safety concerns are opening doors into on coming traffic and lowering a wheelchair van lift onto a curb. The practicality and location(s) will have to be approved by the Town Officials and the Department of Public Works. Brenda will follow up with them and citizen.

Schools: Danny has emailed Nancy Sherborn to continue communications. Letter to Dr. Mills is on hold since the school fiscal year is coming to an end. The Acton Coalition for Healthy Youth is sponsoring a showing of Race to Nowhere, a documentary about the culture of high pressures and expectations faced by students. Danny is going to attend the screening.

Wish List for Future Funding: Tabled.

Dining Guide: Tabled.

“Hot Topics” for Acton 2020: Tabled.

Volunteer Job Fair: Fair is being held on April 26th beginning at 7:30pm. Lisa will represent the COD.

Project Updates: See headings above.

Closed Captioning and Cable: Mike contacted Oleg, Chair of the Town Cable Advisory Committee and Town Website for an idea for the cost to film the Town Meeting. This may be costly. An estimate has been requested. Corporate funding was suggested.

Danny spoke with Verizon and Comcast. They are not under a contractual obligation to provide closed captioning. Oleg is speaking with the Town's contact about their position.

Town Meeting: Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7:00 pm in the AB High School. Warrant Article 33 and 34 address Handicapped parking space violation fine.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Viola, Secretary