

MINUTES
Acton Commission on Disabilities
January 21, 2014

Members Present

Danny Factor, Lisa Franklin,
Madeleine Harvey, Cindy Patton

Members Absent

Steve Baran

Associate Members Present

Leslie Johnson

Associate Members Absent

Wen Li

Guests

Bettina Abe, Franny Osman,
Jim Snyder-Grant

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Meeting called to order at 9:39 am

Moment of Silence. Three committee members recently lost spouses or parents. We observed a moment of silence on their behalf.

Citizen Concerns. Franny Osman, Chair of Acton's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) came to the meeting to announce that she would be running for the Board of Selectmen, and would like COD members to email her as private citizens with their ideas of how to make Acton a better place to live for People with Disabilities (PWD). Her email address is frannyola@aol.com. She also remained for the meeting, participating in the discussion portions, and providing support by recording

issues on the erasable board and on her laptop. The committee was grateful for her assistance.

Minutes of Dec. 17, 2013 Meeting. The December minutes were approved following discussion and corrections.

Treasurer's Report. Associate Member Wen Li was unable to attend the meeting, but sent the information requested, stating that our current balance is \$1,337.82.

Board of Selectmen Report. Katie Green sent her report in writing to the membership (see Docushare). She informed us that the construction of 100 Discovery Way is going to be a warehouse and R&D office space, and people will be in the building, but they are not seeking any variances from COD. She also informed us that the warrant articles for Town Meeting will probably come out in March.

Recreational Trail Guide Discussion. Jim Snyder-Grant and Bettina Abe reported back on their progress on this project, requesting feedback and comments. They presented a rough preliminary sketch of how they plan to set up the trail guides (seen on the Land Stewardship website). We discussed possible improvements to the guides for readability and features of the trails that should be noted. We agreed that they have the project well in hand, and that Danny Factor will continue as liaison, reporting back with updates and arranging meetings with the COD as necessary.

Should Lunch Be Served at Meetings? We discussed whether we wished to schedule a lunch break during our meetings, now that they are one hour longer than in the past. This would involve ordering food and charging it to the COD budget. Pros: It would be an opportunity to have our self education discussions; members usually have not had breakfast; it would offer a relaxed sense of camaraderie, and give the note-takers a break. Cons: We already have a break scheduled; if we add lunch, we will lose some meeting time, defeating the purpose of having extended our time frame to 3 hours. We still end the meeting early enough for people to have

lunch after the meeting. We also are uncomfortable using taxpayers' money for food. Our final decision was to not have a lunch break.

Objectives for 2014. We finished eliminating project ideas that did not meet this year's goal, which is to "educate and inform around issues of PWD" and we voted on the remaining ideas. We voted unanimously to approve the following 7 educational objectives:

- 1) Educate the COD about independent living and hold a community event
- 2) Gather information to assist people with disabilities about access and transportation
- 3) Speak at the Special Needs Parents' Night event
- 4) Assist Town bodies to be more accommodating
- 5) Meet with local ministers' council to discuss access to and at houses of worship
- 6) Gather information about personal care needs, and consider advocacy
- 7) Submit at least two items to news outlets.

Agenda for Next Meeting. Neither Cindy nor Danny are able to attend our February meeting. The co-chairs will discuss and decide if it is necessary to re-schedule. Topics include:

- Setting the 2014 calendar
- Publicizing Town Meeting access arrangements
- Report on revised COD pamphlet/brochure
- COD web page

Meeting Adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 pm.

Documents Distributed (available on DocuShare)

- Minutes from last meeting
- Prototype of trail guide sketches (Land Stewardship site)
- Report from Katie Green on Board of Selectmen activities (sent to COD members via email)
- List of all project ideas discussed for potential 2014 objectives