

**Acton Commission on Disability
Minutes
June 12, 2008**

Members Present: J. Feasel, J. Kohout, J Nigro and B. Viola.

Guest: Doug Halley, Health Director

Meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm.

Guest Speaker: Doug Halley, Health Director

Doug presented an overview of the Health Department's efforts for a public health emergency. He explained that the Town is preparing for an unexpected public health threat or an infectious disease outbreak, like influenza or hepatitis A. The Health Department is working closely with health care professionals, the police and fire departments, and community groups to develop emergency plans.

The Health Department has identified a mobile and a non-mobile population who will need to be inoculated. He needs assistance in identifying some of those individuals who are non-mobile and disabled. He needs input from the Nursing Service, COD, COA, and Public Safety and other resources to create a list. Is there a way we can create a town registry? There has been discussion on the state level of creating a registry. A Community Service Coordinator has been hired to connect residents with needed services. This may provide another identifier source. A grant was awarded to complete a Community Health Assessment this summer.

Other suggestions to put the word out to the public that the Government is there to help and to encourage people with disabilities to identify themselves: Speak to group homes, SPED PAC; mail Emergency Preparedness brochures and other information with the Town Census; encourage participation in the Disability Indicator Program (9-1-1 System); increase distribution sites of Emergency Preparedness Pamphlets, e.g. Post Office, Public Safety Facility ; and entice voluntary identification with free emergency preparedness backpack kit.

Doug suggested that the BOH and the COD write a proposal to the Board of Selectman to purchase some emergency preparedness backpack kits similar to the one Lisa was given by the MOD at the training which she and Doug attended on May 15th.

For clarification, the Blanchard Auditorium is the designated Shelter while the Acton Boxboro Regional High School is the Dispensing Center.

May Minutes were reviewed and accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda met with Karen Kucala and Steve Barrett of the Finance Department and Frank Ramsbottom to discuss the Friends of The Acton Disabled account and the Gift Fund. They suggested that the COD write a letter to the BOS to accept the ~\$200. from the Friends accounts into a new gift fund to be used at the COD's discretion. The account holder would write a check to the Town of Acton for acceptance by the BOS for the COD's gift fund. The COD voted and accepted this proposal. Janet will contact Susan Geehan, the account holder. Once completed, Brenda will write a thank you letter to Susan.

Karen and Steve retrieved documents from 2000 regarding a Grant of \$1,000. awarded to the COD from the Acton/Boxborough Cultural Council in support of audio/video tapes of the Acton Arboretum's Universal Trail. The \$1,000. was accepted by the BOS and placed into a Gift Fund. Questions were raised as to why this money was never expended, since the Arboretum tape was completed. The money in the Gift Fund has to be used as awarded in the grant and accepted by the BOS. Suggestions were made to further promote existing video, purchase more copies, format from VHS to DVD, purchase portable DVD player. If Arboretum tape is completed, could the COD approach the AB Cultural Council with a new proposal of like intent? NARA Park? The COD has voted to do nothing further with the Gift Fund until we have another viable project to propose.

OLD BUSINESS

Comprehensive Community Plan – Vision Session: Tabled until Lisa can give report.

Playground Tour: Tabled until Lisa can give report.

Kids on the Block Puppets: Eileen Sullivan, Elementary Curriculum Specialist of the Acton Public Schools has contacted us through email. She is interested in using the Puppets in the first grade for disability awareness. We will contact her and begin a dialog.

NEW BUSINESS

Touch-screen Voting Machine: At our next meeting in August, we will trial the voting machine.

Urban Ring Transportation Meeting: Tabled.

Quill & Press Accessible Parking: Frank stopped by The Quill and Press on June 2nd to discuss their unmarked Handicapped Parking spaces. Frank responded in an email... that they have ordered a HP sign and it would be installed. He reminded them of the need to have marking painted on the ground and they said that when the lot is re-painted that the markings will be done at the same time. We voted to write a follow up letter to Quill & Press with information of the ADA requirements for accessible parking and design requirements for van accessible parking spaces. We are hoping the letter will expedite the process since they have been out of compliance since the lower lot was constructed.

Medical Equipment Loan: Tabled.

Board of Selectman Meeting in November: Jean to respond and confirm COD's time slot for Nov. 3rd at 8:10 pm.

Employment and Benefits Conference-A Free Training About Work for People with Disabilities: Joy is attending this conference on June 27th.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Viola, Secretary