

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Acton**  
**Commission on Disabilities (COD)**

**Special Meeting to Review**  
**Variance for 470 Massachusetts Avenue,**  
**Acton Funeral Home**

**October 30, 2014**

**Members Present**

Danny Factor, Lisa Franklin, Madeleine Harvey

**Associate Members Present**

Karen Troy

Meeting called to order at 10:30 am

Variance application concerns ramp from parking lot to building, a portion of which was found to be at a grade of 8.9%.

Danny distributed summary of site visit made by COD members, and reviewed variance application including alternate cost projections of work involved, ranging from \$7,000.00 to \$30,000.00.

In preparing our recommendation for the Architectural Access Board (AAB), from a decision statement previously written by Danny, committee members suggested revised wording from “substantial benefit” to simply “benefit,” and acknowledged that one member present at the site visit tested the ramp in a wheelchair, although she ordinarily does not use one.

Primary concern of committee is discrepancy between Acton Funeral Home’s estimates for work to be done (a disparity of \$23,000 between original figure listed on application and verbal estimate relayed to Danny on morning of the meeting). Committee is concerned that neither of these estimates are in writing, despite repeated requests.

On a vote of 3-0 (Motion—Mady, seconded by Danny) the COD voted to submit the following advisory comments:

**Unless the applicant can produce a written estimate for work that proposes to fix the job in the most cost efficient manner, and make a persuasive case that the expense is financially burdensome, our COD thinks that the application for variance should be denied.**

As is our usual procedure, Danny will e-mail 1) comments in regard to our involvement in this matter 2) our advisory comments to Thomas Hopkins, Executive Director, Massachusetts Architectural Access Board. A copy will be emailed to the COD, applicants, and the Acton Building Department.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am

Documents available on docushare:

- Application for variance
- Additional page for variance application
- Review of site visit and description of problem(s)
- COD's recommendation to AAB
- Statement written prior to meeting by Danny Factor

Submitted by  
Madeleine Harvey