

Minutes
Town of Acton
Commission on Disabilities
February 17, 2015

9:30 am, Town Hall, Room 126

Members Present: Danny Factor, Madeleine Harvey, Cindy Patton

Members Absent: Lisa Franklin

Associate Member Present: Leslie Johnson

Associate Member Absent: Karen Troy

Guests: Franny Osman (Board of Selectmen Liaison), Kevin Antonell, Marcus Lewis. Tom Peterman

Call to Order: 9:30 am

Citizens' Concerns:

An e-mail came in about a citizen who is now living independently. He was invited to the Resource Fair and will call Franny about transportation issues.

There was a complaint after the first storm about sidewalk issues. Lisa took care of the person's concern.

A couple living at Windsor Green is now in need of services because of their disabilities. Leslie called and told them about services that are available to them.

Updates: Mady and Danny are still working on the Member book. They will need up to \$100 to finish the project. This was approved.

Announcements:

A few members of the COD noticed that the Bickford's handicapped parking (HP) spaces were full of snow. The manager was spoken to and he said that he will bring up the issue with his snow removal contractor.

The next Regional Coordinating Committee (transportation) meeting will be held on February 27th.

Board of Selectmen's report: The Pay as You Throw program at the transfer station was discussed. There will no longer be one fee for dumping trash, rather there will be a charge according to how much trash you produce. Persons who have trouble breaking down cardboard boxes can get help from the employees at the transfer station.

Snow storms/ blizzard debriefing:

Whenever possible COD members should: notice if HP spots are appropriately dugout and then should speak to the manager of the property in hopes of alleviating this problem; check with neighbors about isolation issues and let people know about resources in town by contacting the town's Social Services Director. During the last storm Danny was concerned that there was no robo call advising people where they can find shelters in town. Later, the calls did go out. We were informed that the Senior Center is always the designated shelter. The question came up about having robo calls sent to cell phones.

Franny found out that you can contact the town's Emergency Management to add a cell phone to the

robo list. Danny said that Lisa usually checks with the Town Clerk to see if there are any disabled citizens' concerns about the storm. There was a question as to whether the Acton Neighborhood Network (ANN) was still in service. The town used to use it for imparting information to certain parts of town.

January Minutes: The minutes were accepted with corrections.

Dates for special COD meetings for educational topic (Independent Living)

Dates were set for Wed., May 13, and Wed., Oct 14. These dates worked for everyone at the meeting. We need to make reservations for the room.

Progress Chart changes:

Mady will have the progress chart sent out to the COD members. There was a discussion about putting the tasks for the Resource Fair on the chart. Danny made a motion that the Resource Fair's tasks be put on the Progress Chart, 2nd Mady, Unanimous.

Clergy Contacts (update):

Lisa left a message with Rev Evans to find out the name of his successor.

Town Meeting special accommodations:

Last year the Real Time recorder (accommodation for the deaf and hard of hearing) was engaged for only one day of Town Meeting. When Town Meeting went on for two days they weren't able to book a person for the next day. Danny said that this year the recorder will be engaged for a possible three days. The COD will request that the town have captioning for the whole audience. The Issue of standing for votes was discussed. At every Town Meeting there will come a time when people are asked to stand. We continue to ask the town for no standing for votes. We requested that Eva Szkaradek (Town Clerk) and Don McKenzie (Town Meeting Moderator) attend the next meeting to have a discussion about accommodation issues at Town Meeting. A motion was made by Danny to have captioning, no standing for votes, and have informal straw votes announced to all be implemented at Town Meeting or the town should explain what the burden is. Also, we would like to invite Eva and Don to the next meeting. 2nd Mady. Unanimous. Fran found out that people who need accommodations must call and request them.

Resource Fair: Send all contacts to Mady.

Materials for distribution (copy requirements):

We need to determine how many COD brochures are available. We also need name tags, poster board to label tables, and a sign in sheet.

Use of COD Budget funds for event:

Motion by Danny to spend up to \$150 for the Resource Fair. 2nd Mady, Unanimous

Format of event:

There was discussion about someone making a video of the resources. We need someone who can do this. We want to have a list of which resources are going to be there. It was decided that there will be no presentations and chairs will be put in front of the tables.

Sign-in Process: There will be something for a sign-in sheet. There will be an area on the sign in sheet where people can indicate that they want to volunteer for the Acton COD.

Advertising and promotion: We need a flyer and an article for the Acton Beacon, Acton Patch, and the Action Unlimited. Danny will put the event on Facebook. We will request that the town put the announcement on top of the town's website. We will look into the possibility of having the notice put in the Municipal Quarterly. Perhaps some town department will sponsor the COD for this to happen.

Who is doing what: Leslie will do the flyers. Danny will write and place the articles one month before the event. Danny will send Eva a request for the COD to have table at Town Meeting. Danny will place the Facebook page notice. Kevin will make up permanent name tags. Leslie will do poster board signage for the tables.

Application for Variance, 100 Nonset Path

The Marcus Lewis Tennis Center is a dome that contains three tennis courts. The door to the dome is a revolving door. The other door is too heavy to open (because of air pressure) and there is no 18 "of space beside the door. There is an attendant at another location (three minutes away) on Granite Rd, A buzzer at the door would allow someone to come and open the door for a person with disabilities. The tennis club is only for members and courts need to be scheduled 30 minutes ahead of time on the internet. They can note that a person with disabilities is coming. In cases of no advanced notice, the buzzer will be there with appropriate signage. Making the revolving door accessible or an automatic door opener is not possible because none exist for this type of building.

Proposal: Unless the Architectural Access Board (AAB) can propose an engineering solution that would not be cost prohibitive, the Acton COD advises that the variance be allowed provided that the applicant install a buzzer at the door, signage and audio contact with the applicant and with a swift, guaranteed response. 2nd Mady, Unanimous

Agenda for March meeting:

Recruitment
Resource fair
Town Meeting accommodations for individuals, warrants
Steve's commemoration
Progress chart

Commemoration ideas for Stephen Baran: moved to next meeting

Adjourn: 12:30 pm