

**Town of Acton  
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES (COD)**

**MEETING MINUTES  
March 20, 2018**

**Members Present:** Madeleine Harvey (Chair), Leslie Johnson

**Members Absent:** Ann (Nancy) Corcoran, Danny Factor, Lisa Franklin,

**Associate Members Present:** Joan Burrows, Franny Osman

**Guests:** Joan Gardner (Board of Selectmen [BOS] liaison), Pescha Kokis (volunteer)

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**Call to order**

9:30 am

**Citizens' concerns**

None.

**Announcements**

Franny reported that at the Housing Authority meeting, all projects were approved, i.e., Walker, Powdermill Road, Kelley's Corner.

**Board of Selectmen (BOS) report**

Danny attended the BOS meeting the previous night and sent a report via the chair about a variety of issues relating to housing issues approved at that meeting.

**Minutes**

The February minutes were approved with minor corrections.

## **Approval of Funds for Variance Meeting**

COD voted unanimously to approve \$40 or more for transportation and parking for COD's access coordinators to attend a state-wide variance meeting in Boston in May.

## **Emergency Preparation**

Sheryl Ball, Acton's Health Director, joined the meeting to discuss issues relating to emergency preparedness, a timely topic in view of multiple snow storms and power outages over the past two months. Issues discussed included:

- Recreation Department (Audubon Drive) was used as a shelter
- Police brought people to the Recreation Department site as necessary
- Bathroom at the site is accessible but not ideal
- Robbins Brook and Life Care were on call for overflow
- New Senior Center is modern and updated and should be utilized in the future
- Nurses and volunteers were on call
- People need to know who to call for transportation
- Information is also needed on how people can get help when power is out and they are unable to use cell phones
- A method must be found to identify individual needs
- A survey should be available to identify people in need, and this could be maintained by a COD member
- It was suggested that COD and the Health Department develop such a survey and make it available at a table at the upcoming April Town Meeting. Members to submit ideas
- Sheryl and Joan were assigned to work on this
- There is a need to identify/accommodate medical requirements, infants and children, pets etc.
- The fire department should perhaps be engaged in these efforts
- It was recognized that both fire and police departments are often fully extended by handling power outage emergencies, clearing downed lines, removing debris etc.
- More outreach/public relations is needed to neighborhood groups

## **Town Meeting Warrant Items**

There was a review of warrant items for the upcoming April Town Meeting, and decisions were made on which members would speak to relevant topics, as necessary. The topics to be addressed:

- Housing
- Camp Acton
- Transportation

## **Town Manager Candidate Question**

From a dozen or so questions submitted by members, the COD decided upon a single question to be posed to the new Town Manager finalists regarding their understanding and acceptance of their role as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator. This question will be utilized by the search committee for the finalists.

## **April Agenda**

Topics were identified for the April COD meeting.

## **Updates**

No updates were reviewed at the meeting.

## **Adjournment**

11:40 am

## **Documents**

No documents were distributed at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by  
Joan Burrows and Madeleine Harvey