



## **Commission on Disabilities**

Special Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2019

3:15 pm

Room 126, Town Hall, 472 Main St. Acton, MA 01720

**Present:** Mady Harvey (Chair), Lisa Franklin, Danny Factor, Franny Osman, Joan Burrows, Leslie Johnson.

### **1. Opening**

Facilitator Harvey opened the meeting at 3:15 pm.

### **2. Regular Business**

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes--
- B. Citizens' Concerns--
- C. Announcements--
- D. Board of Selectman Update--

### **3. Discussion of Town Meeting Warrant Items**

At least six residents attended parts of the meeting, as did Town Manager John Mangiaratti and several Planning staff members: Kristin Guichard, Robert Hummel (?), and Roland Bartl.

The purpose of calling this special meeting was to discuss more Town Meeting articles that at least one member of the Commission felt were relevant to people with disabilities and should have been discussed at the regular March 19 meeting.

It was determined that two votes were needed on each article brought up at the meeting: first to determine if the article is specifically relevant to people with disabilities, second to opine as to whether members are in support of a yes vote on the article. Ms. Franklin pointed out that while people with disabilities like world peace, it doesn't mean that achieving world peace is specifically a disability issue.

Input on Article 5, Kelley's Corner, included comments from visitors; a letter that had been emailed to the Commission read aloud; comments from Town staff; and COD discussion, which included comments on the process of the present meeting.

Ms. Harvey made a motion that the COD take no action on Article 5 and Article 37, both relating to Kelley's Corner. Mr. Factor seconded the motion. The COD voted 4-0 to approve the motion. The motion was approved.

Mr. Factor made a motion that the particular housing funding issues within Article 11—CPA Funding—are not implicated as disability issues. Ms. Franklin seconded the motion. The COD



voted 2-1 to approve the motion. The motion was denied because there was not a majority of a quorum voting yes, based on the numbers of members present and voting; it would require 4-0 to approve.

Ms. Franklin made a motion that the COD speak in favor of Articles 11 C, 11 E1, and 11 E2. Danny seconded the motion. The COD voted 2-1 to approve the motion. The motion was denied (no majority of quorum).

Ms. Osman opined that Article 14 (land acquisition at 19 & 21 Maple St. by the train station) is a disability issue because it allows easier access to the train station for people with disabilities.

Ms. Franklin made a motion that Article 14 is a disability issue. Mr. Factor seconded the motion. The COD voted 2-1 to approve. The motion was denied (no majority of quorum).

#### **4. Regional Transit Authority Task Force on Performance and Funding**

Based on the March 29 deadline for contributing comments on the RTA Task Force draft report, Ms. Osman, who is a member of the Task Force, suggested the COD respond to the report. Ms. Harvey shared a draft letter to MassDOT. Ms. Franklin commented that the recommendations in the report weren't strong enough. She hoped that the report would recommend not only being in compliance with ADA and with meeting the needs of people with disabilities in the community, but would be stronger and go above and beyond the requirements. She commended CrossTown Connect for sometimes giving that extra level of commitment to people with disabilities such as picking up the last minute riders at the end of the day at Concord health facilities. Mr. Factor said he spends time collecting money to help people pay for Uber/Lyft rides when they don't have a ride. The consensus was that the draft that Ms. Harvey had written should be made stronger and then submitted to MassDOT; it should say that the report is a step in the right direction but that because the need for public transportation particularly among people with disabilities is dire, we support a far bolder effort to make necessary transportation a human right. It should mention that MassDOT is not looking at or assisting the suburban and rural areas enough. Ms. Franklin also said that regional efforts such as the Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) are valuable and are more reasonable and effective in dealing with these local needs than state-down approaches. She said that RTAs run a contract; RCCs discuss and plan.

#### **5. Adjournment**

At approximately 5 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:**

- Town of Acton Annual Town Meeting Warrant for Monday April 1, 2019
- March 27 2019 email from resident to COD



- Draft Report of the MassDOT Task force on Regional Transit Authority Performance and Funding
- Copies of slide presentation used by Administrator of Rail and Transit Astrid Glynn at public sessions about the Draft Report of the MassDOT Task force on Regional Transit Authority Performance and Funding
- Draft letter from COD to MassDOT re: Draft Report of the MassDOT Task force on Regional Transit Authority Performance and Funding