

Commission on Disabilities
Minutes
May 21, 2019
9:30 am
Room 126, Town Hall, 472 Main St. Acton, MA 01720

Present: Members Mady Harvey (Chair), Joan Burrows, Ann (Nancy) Corcoran (facilitating), Danny Factor, Lisa Franklin, Leslie Johnson, Franny Osman. Selectperson Joan Gardner, residents.

1. Opening

Facilitator Harvey opened the meeting at 9:30 am.

2. Regular Business

A. Announcements:

Jan. 1, Ban the bag will start. Convert to reusable canvas bags rather than paper. Ban the bag is providing Shop Acton Shop Green bags to those who can't afford bags. Available at the Senior and Social Services Center or Laura Ducharme's office. One attendee expressed concern about what to use as personal trash bags since she depends on those small grocery bags. Banthebagacton@gmail.com for more info.

Ms. Franklin is organizing a group to attend the July 4 celebrations.

Ms. Franklin is attending an employment event at UMass Medical in August.

Ms. Johnson said there is urgent care available 7 days a week, weekdays til 8 pm, at Stop and Shop plaza. Good for people with disabilities to know. It was suggested to tell Health Director Sheryl Ball for HealthyActon.org website.

Ms. Franklin said that the ADA anniversary celebration at Dunn Pond in Central MA is in July.

Health day at Senior Center—May 22.

B. Citizens' Concerns: none

C. Board of Selectman Update:-- Ms. Gardner said the Board met a week ago and came up with short- and long-term goals, soon to be posted.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Ms. Franklin made a motion to approve the minutes of April 16, 2019. Mr. Factor seconded the motion. The COD voted 4-0 to approve. The motion passed. (Mr. Factor abstained because he wasn't there. Still, Mr. Factor reminded the group that the Counsel

and BOS confirmed that it is ok for any member to vote on minutes even if they weren't present at the meeting.)

D. Set next month's agenda: done.

3. Healthy Acton Survey, Sheryl Ball, forum

Announced that Sheryl Ball is having focus groups at 3 and 7 at the meeting room in the library to accompany outreach via the survey, to get a broader perspective on health and wellness in Acton, including physical wellness, mental health, environmental awareness.

Ms. Burrows attended one of these focus groups at the Senior Center; she heard issues she had heard about previously. Someone in West Acton was concerned about no fire hydrant near their home. Selectman Charter attended.

There was a concern about how to get to the library focus group without transportation.

Thursday May 23 John Mangiaratti will be taking questions about human services at the Acton Boxborough Community Services Network, formerly Safety Net, meeting at the Acton Memorial Library at 10 am.

4. Prepare for June elections (present slate for chair)

The plan is that from 10:00-10:15 am on June 18, elections will take place, then the meeting will adjourn and the party will begin, all at 25 Half Moon Hill, the common house of New View Cohousing neighborhood.

Ms. Franklin made a motion to approve this plan. The COD voted all in favor, 5-0. The motion passed.

Ms. Franklin made a motion that Ms. Corcoran run for chair. The COD voted all in favor, 5-0. The motion passed.

Ms. Corcoran made a motion that Ms. Franklin run for vice chair. The COD voted all in favor, 5-0. The motion passed.

Ms. Harvey made a motion that Ms. Osman run for secretary. The COD voted all in favor, 5-0. The motion passed.

Ms. Corcoran made a motion that Ms. Johnson run for treasurer again. The COD voted all in favor, 5-0. The motion passed.

Ms. Osman encouraged Ms. Johnson to consider being chair in the future.

Mr. Factor moved that Ms. Burrows be access coordinator. The COD voted all in favor, 5-0. The motion passed. COD needs focal point when there is a variance or a concern about access at a property. If Ms. Burrows doesn't have the human resource to handle a particular situation, that situation can be handed to someone else.

Ms. Corcoran pointed out an issue related to the changing of the guard—that some positions will be available to associate members.

Ms. Harvey clarified whether associate members can vote, or only full members. It was believed that associate members can't make motions, second, or vote. It may be that we can use associates for these activities when there is not a quorum. Ms. Franklin plans on talking to John Mangiaratti on June 6 about the issue of wanting a higher proportion of people with disabilities on the commission. Commission position of staff or person from another committee is filled by Ms. Corcoran.

Discussion of trying to keep too many members of a committee from communicating with John Mangiaratti. It is desired to keep questions coming from many people on same question; avoid duplication of emails. Meanwhile, Ms. Corcoran would be loathe to judge whether any citizen can go with their concern or ask for time with Town Manager.

Ms. Johnson suggests that if it involves something our commission is doing, and someone approaches Mr. Mangiaratti, they should let the COD know. Ms. Corcoran points out that she and Ms. Franklin have a plan to go to Mr. Mangiaratti for a pre-spelled-out at a meeting, that we would talk to him about using our funds for supporting adaptable bike and transportation programs. COD budget has to be spent by June 30 on things supportive of

Money from this year's budget has to be spent by June 30 on things supportive of pwd. John

5. Report on outcome of request for budget support for adaptive bicycle event (funding for bussing etc.) by Ms. Osman and Ms. Corcoran.

Ms. Osman and Ms. Corcoran met with Town Manager John Mangiaratti to discuss ideas for using the COD's remaining budget. One suggestion John had was to make signage on elevators more clear for use. He thought it would cost in vicinity of \$200. He is also going to have a day when he takes the Town Employees on the bus. Ride the Cat/ Know your town day. With the amount of money that was left, it would be a good use to support this event. We said it would be good to provide \$200 to give refreshments out at that event.

Use of remaining COD budget as proposed by Ms. Osman, Ms. Corcoran, and Town Manager John Mangiaratti:

450 adaptive bike day transportation
500 adaptive bike program
200 elevator signage

168 party
200 Know your town CAT ride

1518 total.

Lisa made a motion that the COD approve these expenditures. The COD voted 5-0 in favor. The motion passed.

Mr. Factor suggested COD discuss our budget request earlier in year.

Someone suggested that because the total Town and School budget is 100 million dollars, there is no reason the COD shouldn't be asking for \$5000 per year. Note this for September or October agenda. Mady had gone to various towns and did a report of what towns spent with handicapped parking fee funds. Thanks to Chucky Castro, on the original COD in Acton, that there is money earmarked for us and no separate parking funds. Towns that take in a lot of income from handicapped parking tickets are Burlington and Lowell, with more parking and malls.

Ms. Harvey noted that when John Magiaratti, Town Manger, came at first, he asked how we use our money.

If we came up with a wish list in Sept., Ms. Corcoran said, we could come up with a request to John M in Oct. to request an increase in budget.

5. Open Meeting Law (OML) follow-up from December 2018 meeting

Ms. Franklin shared a list of items to be followed-up on after the December 2018 Open Meeting Law training at Town Hall. It was noted that Open Meeting Law impacts spontaneity. It is important to be sure not to have a quorum when talking about an issue outside a public meeting, even serially.

Discussion of whether the summary of Open Meeting Law that is in our handbook is correct, particularly about the circumstances in which an executive session can be held.

Ms. Corcoran makes a motion that the COD accept Ms. Franklin's list of items. Motion passes.

6. No meeting in June (party) or July, except for June short elections meeting before the party.

The June 18 COD retreat, at 25 Half Moon Hill, will be a party rather than a working retreat. More work will be done in subsequent meetings. Ms. Harvey ordered lunch from Roche Brothers for this event.

7. Handbook

Mr. Factor and a regular volunteer resident have gone through the COD Handbook, updating and organizing. They will replace our old handbooks with the new. Ms. Osman suggests including the link to the information online (such as other CODs and Independent Living info). Discussion of convenience of updating the handbook online vs. paper. Ms. Franklin points out that welcoming procedure is up to the chair. In the past, they met with new members in person.

Mr. Factor reminded us to update the handbook on Docushare as well.

Ms. Corcoran suggests dividing up work of updating.

Ms. Franklin suggests we make sure the result is readable by low vision and blind software.

8. Adaptive Bike event

Description of Adaptive Bike Event in May: Participants ranged widely in age, from kids to senior citizens. It was good business for Pedal Power. One participant bought a bike just then. Jean Goldsberry, CEO of Minuteman Arc and chair of Concord COD, attended. She would like to have her COD and our COD have a joint meeting to brainstorm next steps. Leslie would like to add Melissa Ryer from Acton Recreation Dept. join. Greater Acton Adaptive Bike Coalition has about 37 people in it. Number and variety of adaptive bikes was huge, Ms. Corcoran says. Ms. Johnson has enjoyed her role leading this effort. Ms. Johnson will arrange a meeting with the Concord COD.

8. Access Reports

Great Road sidewalk getting closer, Engineer Cory York waiting for something from state and expected to be able to build it before frost in the fall.

248 Great Rd. (Gould's Plaza) and 210 Main St. (Ace Hardware) handicap signage letter to Architectural Access Board has been sent in from Town. Ace has never responded to Town letters.

Nagog Park mall parking lot is now in compliance.

30 Great Rd. Teamworks- still haven't heard if they are putting in pool lift, though they have been told they have to apply for variance or put in the pool lift.

21 Davis Rd. – inspection on the new pool and bathrooms is tomorrow or it won't be able to open on Memorial Day weekend.

Kimball Farm – there will be renovation of main building to bring it into compliance.

Despite stepping off of the COD, Mr. Factor will continue to help Ms. Burrows on the Access Reports, as a citizen volunteer.

7. Adjournment

At 12:44, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:

- Acton Get Involved! Brochure Isabella Harshbarger and Alex Condes brought.
- Lisa Franklin's list of thoughts following Open Meeting Law Training
- COA Focus Group on May 21, 2019 questions that will be asked.
- Email from Mr. Factor with Danny and resident volunteer's list of COD Handbook Proposed Revision Areas.