

Acton Commission on Disabilities (COD): Minutes for August 19, 2025.

Members present : Lisa Franklin, Leslie Johnson, Pesha Kokis, Jim Snyder-Grant (SB liaison), Wanjiku Gachugi (town staff).

Members absent : Joan Burrows, John Gianetto, Melissa Wingfield.

Meeting was called to order at 10 am.

A member of the **Citizen's Library** trustees asked the COD to assist them as they work on making the Citizen's Library building compliant with the Architectural Access Board (AAB) regulations. We voted unanimously to assist them with this. Lisa has set up a meeting to visit the library on August 20th at 2 pm on 21 Windsor Ave, with town officials and an accessibility consultant from the Metrowest center for Independent Living. This will be posted in case a quorum of commissioners attend.

The building is not ADA compliant at this time, but for anyone interested in joining the overall discussion and evaluation, we will hold that outside to make it easier. Jim shared the section of the town's ADA transition plan pertaining to identified barriers at the library in the chat box. It was agreed the best way to work on this would be for Lisa to report back on the progress at the regular COD meetings.

We voted unanimously to send thank you cards to Roche Brothers Catering Department and Laura Ducharme for their help with the **ADA anniversary picnic** . Melissa will write them on her handmade cards and Jim will deliver them.

The **MBTA travel training** is now going to be held by Zoom on September 18, from 10 am - 12 pm. The trainer, Ethan, will send out a registration form that we can attach as a QR code on our flyers. People who register will receive the link to connect to the training. Pesha is following up with Ethan and getting the ads placed in the Senior Newsletter, the Action Unlimited, the Acton Exchange, the Town Calendar, and Leslie's disability Facebook page.

Amanda prepared a flyer to reach out to people who might be interested in being part of the **Kids on the Block (KOB) Puppet** troupe. We voted

unanimously that the program and the materials would continue to belong to the COD, and that we would partner with some sort of group that we could set up to be the puppeteers. The National KOB organization no longer exists and the scripts are out-dated, so we will improvise with modern back-stories for each puppet. A request was made to be sure to include a story line about invisible disabilities. Franny Osman had offered to help organize a table for the puppets at Oktoberfest on September 27. We agreed to let Amanda do this, but no one present at the meeting would be able to attend with her.

We will be holding **elections next month** , and Lisa is stepping down from her position as Chair. We briefly discussed which on-going roles and responsibilities each of us was willing to take on.

Select Board updates: The town has started the early stages of the budget process for the coming fiscal year.

July minutes were approved unanimously.

Resident concerns: An Acton resident raised the concern that there seemed to be no progress made on educating the public about the right to attend town meeting by Zoom. Lisa will follow up with the individual and with the DEI department.

A short discussion identifying other ways to share important information with people with disabilities in our community included an idea for people to be able to sign up for a general PWD (persons with disabilities) list that would send out updates. We were unable to discuss this further under open meeting law, and will have to discuss it at a future meeting when it is on the agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

List of documents used: July minutes; the ADA transition plan section for the Citizen's Library; flyer created to look for puppeteers for the KOB puppets.