

Acton Commission on Disabilities

Minutes, February 20, 2018

In attendance: Members: Madeleine Harvey, Nancy (Ann) Corcoran, Lisa Franklin, Danny Factor, Leslie Johnson. Associate members: Franny Osman, Joan Burrows. Liaison: Joan Gardener One visitor.

Call to order: 9:30

Announcements:

Automatic doors are now on ALL doors in town hall first floor.

Legislative priorities have been identified by the Statewide Independent Living Council.

Note that TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) is working on having accessible bikes available at Nara and Pedal Power for use on the Freedom trail.

The shared taxi service plan is moving ahead with the towns submitting applications for technical support from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

The town emergency shelter plan meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. No new date is set yet.

Acton did not receive the grant from the state to bring the transition plan up to date, but the town manager is going to proceed with funds from last year.

Citizens Concerns

Nagog Plaza needs above ground Handicap parking signage.

Vote taken to pass on to Frank Ramsbottom (Building Commissioner) 4-1. The 'no' vote was a concern about the problem people have backing up as signs do not pull through.

School playgrounds are not accessible. Children cannot socialize with friends or access the playground safely or use the equipment. Danny will plan a meeting with J.D. Head (Director of Facilities at AB schools) and Joan will attend as well.

Minutes approved with minor modifications.

Perkins School for the Blind is looking to people who are sight impaired or blind to be involved in a study on voting access.

It was suggested that Mady write a note to Peter Ashton to thank him for help in making changes to help avoid problems when an overflow of voters attend town Meeting (as in December), and be assured all is set for April.

Town Manager Search: When the number is down to two or three the Commission will be allowed one question for the candidate regarding serving as ADA coordinator. It was suggested that everyone send some questions to Franny to compile and send to Mady for discussion at March meeting.

Danny and Nancy met with Sarah Bursky for over two hours. Nancy noted that she found Sarah to be “responsible, knowledgeable, and sensitive – an exceptional person and worth our dollars.”

It was decided to have Sarah run two three-hour sessions rather than one six hour one. We will have lunch and snacks and a meeting place will be arranged. Two dates were chosen (May 8th and 15th). There was discussion as to whether these sessions would be open to the public. Most members did not want that. Danny will clarify.

Sheryl Ball, Acton Health Director, is coming to our March meeting to discuss the emergency plan and how to identify people and their needs.

The state has designated “age-friendly towns” and Acton is one of them. Now town groups need to meet to discuss housing, isolation, and other issues.

There is a bill stuck in committee to align the AAB(Architectural Access Board) with the ADA (American with Disabilities Act). Danny and Joan will follow up and ask the BDS to advise.

Executive Session

All read the letter sent to facility.

Motion to accept Access report. Vote taken – yes unanimous.

The Ride is requiring new certification ‘rules’ in that people must appear in person. This is making it extremely difficult for these people without transportation!

March Agenda set

Adjourned 12:40

Respectfully submitted by Joan Burrows

Docushare items: Access/update reports MMA