

**Town of Acton
Commission on Disabilities (COD)**

MINUTES

**Tuesday, November 20, 2018
9:30 am, Town Hall, Room 126**

Call to order at 9:30AM

Present:

Full Members: Mady Harvey (Chair, and today's facilitator), Lisa Franklin, Nancy (Ann) Corcoran, Danny Factor, Leslie Johnson.

Associate Members: Franny Osman (Joan Burrows, absent)

Board of Selectmen Liaison: Joan Gardner, absent.

Visitors: John Mangiaratti (Town Manager); Sharon Mercurio (Council on Aging), Kristin Guichard (Planning Department), Diane Baum (School Committee), Chris Prehl (Acton Police, Traffic Safety).

Announcements and Reminders:

--Mady announced she will be resigning from the commission at the end of June.

--Two students from Acton-Boxborough Regional High School are planning to build some boardwalks for mobility access as their senior project. As part of their process, they are looking to interview people who would be affected by these boardwalks.

--Nancy mentioned hearing about a young adult in Lancaster who opened a gym for children with special needs.

--Crosstown Connect will be offering two holiday shopping trips to the Solomon Pond Mall, on November 29 and December 11; they will be leaving from Windsor Green and Sachem Way, and the Senior Center at 9:00, and leave the mall at 3:00. For more information, call the dispatcher at 978 844 6809.

--Open Meeting Law Training Dec. 18.

--Mady reminds COD that Annual Report should be reviewed by members as it has to be approved in Dec.

Citizens' concerns:

--Nancy brought up the need for this group to have a policy on what to do about bad weather on days we are meeting (it was snowing harder than predicted throughout today's meeting). To date, our rule has been to cancel if the schools cancel, but that did not happen today. Danny was uncomfortable with the idea of assessing the safety of people with disabilities (PWD) (COD members, guests, spectators) based on what the school department felt was safe for children. The needs and restrictions of PWD are more complicated. This discussion will be put

on a future agenda.

--Mady said someone had asked her if the COD was doing anything about the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren, where the grandparents are becoming more disabled as they age.

Board of Selectmen news:

--Nancy gave a summary of what the BOS is doing. Mostly they are preparing for the marijuana articles in the upcoming special town meeting, and discussing developments near Piper Lane.

Business:

--Kelley's Corner:

Staff members of the Kelley's Corner Steering committee gave us a brief background into the history of the Kelley's Corner development concerns and presented us with the current plans, looking for feedback and to answer questions from this commission.

According to the present planning schedule, the Town is expected to receive 2.5 million dollars in 2022 for construction. The Town is responsible for design and acquisitions. We have gone through MassDOT's 25% review process. Now MassDOT will look at revisions that the consultant, GPI, does. MassDOT will have a public hearing and a formal public comment period.

Two items will be on the spring Annual Town Meeting warrant: 1) additional design funds for the intersection of Mass. Ave. and Community Lane, near CVS; and 2) funds to hire an appraiser and a review appraiser, required because we would be using federal funds for acquisitions.

One approach to Kelley's Corner is having "refuge islands".

It was suggested that the students be brought into the planning process with a presentation to them. Planning did previously take students' input at the high school.

Danny moves that we hear his two-minute talk about Kelley's Corner and next month we will have 15 minutes for Kelley's Corner discussion. **Motion passes, 3 yes, 2 abstain (Lisa and Danny).**

Danny will create a handout clarifying Kelley's Corner issues that he will give out at the next COD meeting based on Kristin's presentation today and any other information he is privy to in his active role looking at the Kelley's Corner plan as Green Acton's representative to the Kelley's Corner Committee.

Danny's 2-minute talk:

Environmental Justice is part of mission of Green Acton on Kelley's Corner.

Green Acton has concerns about turning lanes due to safety; crossing times with some distances being longer while others shorter; trees being cut down supposedly for sidewalk but for turning lanes widening streets.

Green Acton has asked Town for a response to this. John Mangiaratti says he will respond by Thanksgiving.

--School Committee:

Diane Baum, Chair of Acton-Boxborough School Committee: 11-Person School Committee is looking for a new location for their meetings. Old Danny's Place location is appealing. The School Committee would like to try a Dec. 6 meeting there but would like COD to look at the space. Facilities Director JD Head reviewed the space and approved it, but Diane wants to know if COD approves the space. Danny Factor suggests that if JD Head approves we would be okay with it. Danny wonders about accommodations for people with hearing loss at meetings. Communication Accessible in Real Time. (CART) is expensive but are there other options.

Upcoming Dec. Town Meeting:

Marijuana issue coming up in December Town Meeting. Discussion of whether this question of recreational marijuana being sold in Acton is appropriate for COD to take up and have a vote on.

Danny moves that COD says vote no on Q1 to ban recreational marijuana sales.

Motion passes, 3 yeases, 1 abstain, 1 no.

Agreed that Danny will present COD's mixed opinion, at Town Meeting.

Administrative:

--Minutes:

Sept. 2018 minutes approved 5-0 .

Danny suggests Oct. 2018 minutes get formatted similar to usual Town format. Franny will re-format and share, then send out a draft for discussion at the Dec. 2018 meeting.

--Handouts:

Give any handouts from meetings to Lisa and she will deliver them to Kim Bricker. The posting of handouts on DocuShare is not required; the handouts just need to be available when a member of the public asks.

--Reviewed the form letter to send to the public when concerns are brought to COD about an individual or business's complaint:

Approved unanimously 5-0 with minor typos fixed.

--Reviewed next agenda.

Access Coordinators:

Access Coordinators' Report presented.

Respectfully submitted by Franny Osman, with thanks to Lisa Franklin for notes during the first half.