

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

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 16, 2018  
9:30 am, Town Hall, Room 126**

Call to order at 9:30AM

**Present:**

Full Members: Mady Harvey (Chair), Lisa Franklin (Facilitating); Nancy Corcoran, Danny Factor, Leslie Johnson.

Associate Members: Joan Burrows. (Franny Osman absent)

Board of Selectmen Liaison: Joan Gardner.

Visitor: Town Manager John Mangiaratti.

**Announcements:**

--Leslie noted that the van service would be running all voting hours on Election Day.

--Joan Gardner reminded us of early voting beginning October 22nd at Town Hall for two weeks.

--Nancy is planning on putting a scarecrow at Cucurbit Farm for their fundraiser for National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI).

--Franny attended a transportation meeting and costs of van service vs. Uber was discussed for rides to town events.

**Nancy moves** that the September minutes be approved next month. **Motion passes 4-1.**

--Mady reminded us that the Open Meeting Law training in Harvard, MA meets Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and we should try to car pool and all attend.

**Business:**

--Town Manager John Mangiaratti had four items:

1. A housing grant would improve sidewalk and driveway access at Sachem Way.
2. The state grant, working with Franny, is focused on parking lot access. John has talked with Jeff Dougan on this issue and plans to follow up with Jen Benson and Jamie Eldridge.
3. John attended a summit with discussion on addiction under ADA, assistive technology, and help for the hearing impaired.
4. Our budget is now \$2000.00 and if we need more John would like us to talk to him and let him know how we spend our money.

Nancy noted that books and videos have been donated to the Library.  
Mady noted our programs: the Resource Fair, the Mental Health program,  
and our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

--Danny noted that we need to discuss ideas for this year's budget. Joan suggested a meeting with other local commissions to share ideas.

--Discussion about visitors seating. Nancy tabled.

--A new draft of the form letter that would be sent in response to individual requests for help was read by all. Some comments were given and it was decided to discuss this at the next meeting. **Danny moves** that people incorporate ideas and we finalize the letter next month. **Motion passes 4 in favor, 1 abstain.**

### **Strategic plan:**

We will allow half hour on this at each meeting until complete. Everyone will review copies.

Nancy and Lisa's suggestions from the retreat with consultant Sarah Bursky were read.

Lisa – need to use ADA definition of people with disabilities.

Danny had some issues with the wording. It was suggested that an asterisk be put in noting that 'all disabilities are included'.

More discussion on wording. ("Aging" vs. "underserved")

More discussion and Nancy suggested we table wording until next month.

A straw poll was taken for "underserved" in place of "aging" with 4 yeas and 1 abstain. More discussion next month.

### **Next month agenda:**

Sharon Mercurio, Senior Center Director, will come to discuss Kelley's Corner.

Docushare update

Housekeeping

Town meeting warrant

Discussions as noted.

### **More business:**

--COD agreed to do a TV spot for Volunteer Coordinating Council. Joan and Nancy are attending.

--Bike rental for people with disabilities. Leslie has done a lot of research. The town should offer adaptive bikes, as new trails are not usable for everyone.

Leslie will continue to follow up with town resources through Recreation department and more. **Nancy moves** that Leslie continue this effort. **Motion passes unanimously.** Danny noted that older people use bikes and some

people use them for getting to work so some private funding should be discussed. Joan Gardner noted that there was a private fund now for bikes at the train station. Nancy will talk to John Mangiaratti about a shed for bikes at station. Mady suggested checking with other towns. Other local names were given with

interest in biking. Lisa asked Joan Gardner to please ask the Selectmen not to finalize any plans until the commission sees them.

**State News:** Lisa reported that among the Mass. Office on Disability (MOD) community there is some concern that the Commission for the Blind new director is not blind, but it was noted that he is “legally blind”. Discussion about whether MOD leadership office should be filled by a person with a disability. **Nancy moves** that we back MOD having a person with a disability to head the commission. **Motion passes unanimously.** Some concerns about handicapped parking spots and bike lanes - state and towns are working on creative solutions.

**Access Updates:**

Danny noted that Building Commissioner Frank Ramsbottom has been out so there are no updates. Joan and Danny will follow up with regards to accessibility issues at Moodz salon accessibility, both parking lot and banister.

--Terra (visitor) noted that at the Acton Fire 125<sup>th</sup> celebration, she helped a woman in a wheelchair as she got stuck in a bad rut in a sidewalk on Main Street. This should be repaired immediately. Terra to follow up today. **Vote taken 4 yes to 1 abstain.**

Adjourned at 12:40.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Burrows; edited for format and Dec. comments incorporated, by Franny Osman.