

Commission on Disabilities (COD)

Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2019
10:00 am
Acton Town Hall, Room 126

Present: Full Members: Nancy Corcoran (Chair), Joan Burrows, Lisa Franklin, Leslie Johnson, Franny Osman; Associate Members: Peshia Kokis, Jim Snyder-Grant
Others: Resident volunteers, Joan Gardner (Selectman Liaison), Austin Cyganiewicz (Director of Governmental Affairs)

1. Opening

Chair Corcoran opened the meeting at 10:10 am.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the COD meetings of 05-21-2019 and 08-20-2019 were reviewed and approved with minor changes by a vote of 5-0.
- B. Announcements –
 1. Lori Trahan will be here 1st and 3rd wed. of the month, 830 to 12. Acton Office Hours. of each month, room 121 for office hours. Has a bill related to disabilities.
 2. Town Meeting will be Dec. 10, 7 pm, at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. Topics: Twin School construction (Gates and Douglas), West Acton Sewers (and Twin Schools being able to hook into those), and North Acton Fire Station construction.
 3. Community Access Monitoring Training – Mr. Snyder-Grant, Ms. Kokis, and Austin Cyganiewicz (Dir. of Governmental Affairs) attended a training for Community Access Monitors in Lowell this month. They reported on the details of the complete training. Ms. Kokis plans to attend further training in August.
 4. Grant opportunity through Massachusetts Office on Disability - Austin Cyganiewicz will write an application for access improvements this month.
 5. Adaptable Bike Coalition - On pause due to busy work of leadership including bike store owner.
 6. Meeting between Ms. Franklin and Town Staff on Accessible Housing – Ms. Franklin requested a meeting with Town Manager John Mangiaratti. Mr. Mangiaratti arranged a meeting with several staff members including Town Planners. Ms. Franklin found the meeting very useful.

3. New/Special Business

- A. Discussion of donation of plants to Arboretum in memory of deceased members of the COD: Rather than trees, Bettina Abe of Natural Resources Department will order bushes to be planted in the sensory garden at the Arboretum in memory of Steve Baran and Cindy Patton. A motion was made by Ms. Osman to spend \$100 on bushes and \$25 on scented bulbs. The motion was approved.
- B. Discussion of scarecrow fundraiser at Cucurbit Farm. Franny Osman will collect donations from individuals who want to contribute to the fundraiser for National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Members of COD will make the scarecrow together.

Handbook and Membership List – Membership list being edited and distributed. Editing of handbook underway. Old handbooks being collected. New version will also be available in a Word Document. COD will make changes and collate the handbooks on Wed. Nov. 6, 10 am, Room 9, Town Hall.

- C. Lisa reported that there is a movement to have a ballot question during a state election in 2020 that would prohibit the use of any therapy response that is designed solely to induce pain. We noted that the COD could not participate officially but individuals can write separately.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of May 21, 2019 and Aug. 20, 2019