

**Town of Acton  
Commission on Disability  
Minutes  
August 11, 2011  
Acton Town Hall, Room 204  
7:00 pm**

**Members Present:** Danny Factor, Treasurer, Lisa Franklin, Chair, and Brenda Viola, Secretary.

**Member:** Joy Kohout and Wen Li, absent

**Guests:** Nadia Franciscono and Janet Adachi, BOS Liaison

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Lisa Franklin at 7:12 pm.

**Minutes from July 14<sup>th</sup>** were accepted with corrections.

**Documents:** Letter to AAB: Re: Acton Women's Club 7-21-11; and Letter to Dr. Mills and Acton School Committee 8-12-11. (Posted on COD Public Documents)

**For The Record:**

- **Town of Acton Temporary Handicapped Parking Permits:** The Town no longer has the authority to issue temporary HP parking permits.
- **MassHealth** is being sued for ADA noncompliance for not having TTY's, other languages (only English) and Braille (only print). The Disability Policy Consortium is organizing the class action suit against MassHealth.
- **ABFM (Acton-Boxboro Farmer's Market)** was a successful COD outreach. Danny and Lisa spoke with many people and collected names to contact.
- **Handicapped Parking space near Sweet Bites** in West Acton is being used for bicycle parking. The owner of Sweet Bites informed Lisa that she does not own this property but it is owned by the Rosenfeld's. Lisa plans to inform the Rosenfeld's of this violation to the HP space.
- **Idylwilde Farms:** is continuing to place carriage racks across the HP spaces blocking signage and full access to the spaces. Frank will follow up.
- **School Funds:** are being used to upgrade the lower fields at the high school to astro-turf. Our recommendation to the Building and Grounds Department is to ensure that the turf will be wheelchair compliant.
- **MinuteVan:** The School Committee donated money to sustain the MinuteVan through October.
- **The New England Independent Living Center of South Lawrence** is having a BBQ next week on August 24<sup>th</sup>. RSVP, call Karen at 978-687-4288 for more information ILC's.

**Topics:**

- **Acton Women's Club:** Reviewed letter that Danny wrote for submission to the AAB in response to the Acton Women's Club presentation to the AAB for their time variance. Letter was submitted to the AAB for their review.
- **Exchange Hall:** AAB has notified the owner, Glenn Berger, that he does not have sufficient information to support his request for a time variance. The AAB has given him another month to come up with more information before the hearing. Frank wrote a letter to the AAB in response to the continuation.

- **Sorrento's/Dental Office Strip Mall Update:** New and previous spaces have to be fully accessible.
- **Award for Dunkin Donuts:** The award should highlight plight. Also brought up people who use canes and have respiratory conditions. A suggestion was made for an article to be written in the paper. Ideas discussed for ceremony, where and to whom. Danny to speak with Joy.
- **Board and Committee Chair's Meeting Report:** Lisa attended the meeting on 7-25-11. She submitted the COD's upcoming goals. One is to be involved in the beginning stages with developers to ensure new construction compliance. Lisa requested an association with the Planning Board and Design Review Board.

**New Projects:**

- **Acton Nursing Service Workshop:** COD has proposed to provide a workshop to the Acton Nursing Service RE: Independent Living Centers and Personal Care Assistant Program. The binder that the ANS provides to new patient contains handouts with this information. Lisa will contact Heather and set a date for her come to a meeting.
- **Firehouse Trip (Integrated Pre-School, elementary, teens, who?):** Children who attend school programs out of district do not get to go on field trips as do others within district. Danny is including this in his letter to Dr. Mills.
- **Letter to Dr. Mills:** Danny re-introduced a revision of his letter to Dr. Mills. He has changed to a softer and more concise language. The letter is now addressed to Dr. Mills and to the Acton School Committee. Salient points are the out of District SPED students, the expanded Autism section, the 2010 Survey e.g. specific to autism, and the disproportional sleep to homework ratios that have more effect on children with disabilities. The letter was unanimously approved.
- **Consensus on position re: student stress:** Danny to email our resolution/position on student stress and expectations policy. Policy: No child should be so stressed out by school that it affects the child's well-being. However, expectations for special needs students shall be kept high consistent with their abilities.
- **Review of DocuShare:** Wen and Danny met with Kaitlin Downer for a tutorial on DocuShare. Danny shared this information and gave us handouts. Brenda will be responsible for sending the minutes to DocuShare.
- **Legislation info on website clarity and requests:** Members decided that a particular issue outside of Acton was beyond the scope of the Town of Acton's COD. We proposed a policy and unanimously agreed. The policy is "The COD will post legislative updates on the website in a neutral manner as long as the town has not taken a stand. From time to time, the COD will bring an issue before the Board of Selectman that reflects larger disability rights agenda."
- **Next month's agenda:** Danny will list agenda items via email.
- **Motion on Canopy purchase for COD outdoor Activities:** Lisa and Brenda will shop for the canopy.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Viola, Secretary