

Andover Commission on Disability—February 24, 2021 Commission Meeting

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed the meeting was conducted virtually through Microsoft Teams at 6:37 p.m.

Present: Chair Julie Pike, Jemma Lambert, Justin Coppola, Kathleen Dolan, Trish Leelman, Eileen Reilly, Steve Surette, David Kahan, Bernadette Lionetta, guest Judy Wakefield, and Janet Nicosia, Director of Facilities and Town ADA Coordinator

Roll call: Julie Pike, yes; Justin Coppola, yes; Kathleen Dolan, yes; Jemma Lambert, yes; Steve Surette, yes; David Kahan, yes; Bernadette Lionetta, yes, Trish Leelman, Eileen Reilly, yes

Minutes: Eileen made a motion to approve the January 27, 2021 minutes and Justin seconded. Unanimously passed.

Old Business – Updates:

- **Spot Checks:** Steve and Justin had nothing to report.
- **Group Reports:** Justin reported that the ADA/ AAB book arrived. This book that Justin mentioned at the January meeting, defines differences between the ADA Federal Civil Rights Law and the State AAB Building Codes. The plan is to use it for the ADA planning and Reviews of the West Elementary School. Jeff Dougan of the Massachusetts Office of Disability was also consulted and he discussed the big differences between the two sets of laws.
- Janet reported that she has started the implementation of closed captioning for the Town's Cable Access TV Stations. She is working on ensuring that we have the appropriate software packages and licenses going forward. She will use some of the money from her ADA budget.
- **Projects:** Trish reported she drafted a letter which Jemma acknowledged as a good starting point for a letter which will be vetted by Ann Ormond, Director of Business, Arts, and Culture and others before being sent to Merrimack College. Eileen asked whether it made sense to attach a model of what we are trying to accomplish to the letter for clarity. Justin asked about getting a downtown business person(s) for input. He noted the assistance of Paul LaRosa from LaRosa's as an example when the Main Street project was ongoing. Justin added that ongoing training as well as train the trainer efforts will need to be considered to ensure consistency among the Merrimack students. Julie asked Jemma about whether any funding might be available for student stipends and Julie then noted that she has set aside \$2K for stipends out of the ACOD budget. **Action Item: Jemma will attend a meeting with Merrimack College next week.**

ACOD Corner in Robb Center: Justin proposed the idea at an earlier meeting of having a dedicated area in the new Robb Center for “Accessible Andover” videos and information about disability and access issues. This is the next step in marketing “Accessible Andover” resources from our web site. Julie mentioned that Wilmington is providing such information through social media and Jemma noted that videos could possibly be produced by groups such as Andover TV, the Sr. citizens video club, or even High School students. ***Action Item: Next step is for an ACOD member to volunteer to be the lead and start staffing the project.***

- **Taxation for Elderly Update:** Jemma reported the Town Treasurer’s Office is in the process of making a choice on this issue.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Julie reminded members to complete their Conflict of Interest Statements if they have not done so.

New Business:

- **Projects:** Justin reported that Conservation Director Bob Douglas notified us that McKenna Allardi, a high school student is proposing that the Conservation Area named Roger’s Dell at the junction of School Streets and Lupine Road be made more ADA accessible and more user friendly. More information on this area called “Roger’s Dell”, will be provided at a later date.

Announcements: Julie reported that the Elder Services Newsletter had a notice about Covid-19 Vaccines scheduled for March 3 for 80 town citizens with sign-up on February 25th 2021.

Adjournment: Trish made a motion to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. and Steve seconded. Unanimously approved.

Next meeting: *March 24, 2021 to be held virtually.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan McKelliget

Andover Commission on Disability Wednesday, February 25, 2021 @ 6:30 PM Virtual Meeting Broadcast by line at www.andovertv.org

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town’s website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that

may gather in one place, this meeting of the Andover Commission on Disability will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner: Andover TV COMCAST CHANNEL 22 AND VERIZON CHANNEL 45 or stream online at www.andovertv.org.