

Town of Andover Commission on Disability

Minutes of the October 26, 2022 Meeting

6:30 P.M. Virtual Meeting Broadcast on Andover TV

Members Present: Justin Coppola Sr., Jemma Lambert, Kathleen Dolan, Trish Leelman, Katherine Ananis, and Stephen Surette.

Guest Attendees: Lisa Schwartz, Assistant Planning Director, Janet Nicosia, Facilities Director/ADA Coordinator, (called in by phone), Ellen Townson, Conservation Commission Liaison, Gail Bloom, Council on Aging Liaison, Carlene Bell-Flanagan, guest, Christina Yen, Phillips Academy student/guest, Liam Flanagan, Andover High School student/guest.

Call To Order: Justin called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and took roll call as follows:

Kathleen Y; Trish, Y; Katherine, Y; Stephen Y; Jemma, Y; Justin, Y.

Justin introduced guest speaker, Lisa Schwartz to discuss the Town's Master Plan. Ms. Schwartz began by saying this plan is done every 10-20 years to look at growth in Andover --- the last plan was done in 2012. Various sectors such as housing, open spaces, transportation, and the like make up the plan. Goals and objectives are included, and the plan is the foundation for any new development in town. Public input is provided along the way on how new growth is envisioned for Andover.

This year's process involved 19 focus groups of a mixed groups of residents who provided information which then became the basis for surveys. A consultant was hired to fine tune this information and develop the surveys. Additional public information-gathering events included the Senior Center and upcoming ones will be at the Library. The website is: masterplan.andoverma.gov and will provide an affinity map, survey results, and schedule of other events along with updated information going forward.

Justin asked for the ACOD to receive copies of the Draft Master Plan when completed as it would be good to have it before the next Master Plan meeting. Ms. Schwartz noted the plan is intended to be user friendly and is currently under review with that goal in mind. Carlene agreed that people like to see information quickly with visuals --- a change from plans from 20 or so years ago.

Justin noted Janet Nicosia did a new town-wide Self Evaluation/ADA Transition Plan including ADA components outlining compliance issues. Janet said the ADA process involves all town buildings, and the newly updated document is being used as a baseline for planning the new schools, West Elementary School and the Andover High School, and as well as new buildings in town. Justin said that this high-level of work towards compliance should be highlighted in the Master Plan.

Ms. Schwartz praised the ongoing work of ACOD under Justin's leadership and Justin noted that inclusion is not only a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Commission concern but one shared by ACOD.

Trish asked whether she should attend the next Master Plan Meeting and Justin and Lisa encouraged her and other commission members to attend.

Justin noted the commission should include the updated Self-Evaluation and ADA Transition Plan in the Master Plan. This is the town's roadmap to removing access barriers for people with disabilities. A section on the inclusion of people with disabilities is also needed.

The next Master Plan meeting is November 9, at the Memorial Hall Library at 7 P.M.

Janet asked if she could give her report at this time, and Justin agreed.

Janet met with Jeff Dougan from Mass Office on Disability, the architects, the Program Managers, Steve and Justin regarding the addition of the Doherty School elevator which is on track to be completed by end of next Summer. Bid documents are going out in January for Town Office renovations. Justin asked whether assistive listening will be available at town meeting in December, and Janet replied yes, and instructions for assistive listening will be made available on the front cover of the Finance Book.

Justin asked whether there were other Liaison Reports at this time:

Jemma has nothing to report. It is too early to talk about Merrimack College collaboration.

Gail talked about working with COA and ACOD on joint projects. She attended a zoom meeting on suicide which reinforced the need to include mental health issues within disability discussions.

Ellen noted that improvements on Open Space and other projects have been partly due to ACOD and there is also greater awareness of the role of ACOD in town. She also explained the role of boy scout assistance in some of the activities they are involved with trail clearing and other projects outdoors.

Minutes of September 28, 2022

It was moved by Stephen, seconded by Trish, and voted 6-0 to approve the Minutes of 2022 amended by adding the word "Day" to "Andover Day" in those minutes.

Roll call: Kathleen, Y; Katherine, Y; Trish, Y; Stephen, Y; Jemma, Y; Justin Y.

Old Business:

DPW & ADA Update Accessible Projects

Stephen said he attended with Justin on the Doherty School Renovation Project to view the proposed elevator and other renovations.

Justin noted new web content--**Elder/Disabled Taxation Relief Fund**-- and he thanked commission member David Kahan's work on the committee that developed this new content.

Justin dropped off paper copies of the **Andover Day Newsletter** and the Infographics developed for Andover Day at the Robb Center, Old Town Hall, the Lobby of the Town Offices, and the Library.

Justin noted he and Stephen are working with AVIS on "All Person Trails" on select properties. There was an initial meeting, and on-site visit at Deer Jump reservation. AVIS members, Justin and Stephen also visited the Goldsmith reservation off South Main Street also in the planning stages for ADA accessible trails. Berry Pond in Harold Parker State Forest on-site visit was completed by ACOD. The Berry Pond ADA Report has been completed by ACOD and released to AVIS. Non-compliant issues include lack of path of travel, transition problems with different ground surfaces, some slopes and some ADA signage issues.

Ellen talked about recent planned ADA updates to Field Pond with DCR compliance such as a viewing station, a focus on surface materials, and signage. This area sought and received permitting by the Conservation Commission over a year ago. She will report back to ACOD with their updates of their plan.

Accessible Andover TV Update

Justin re-capped the ongoing ACOD videos produced by Andover TV called "There is Something About Andover":

- What is ACOD --- the first segment aired on TV. Available online at <https://acod.mhl.org/video-test-page/>.
- Assistive Listening --- on Cable Access TV in November, 2022 also at: <https://acod.mhl.org/video-test-page/>.
- Mason's Hospital Equipment Loan Program --- on Cable Access TV also available in November also at: <https://acod.mhl.org/video-test-page/>
- Library and their ADA resources --- recorded, being edited, on TV soon.
- Caregiver Issues --- is scheduled for recording 11/1/2022.
- Transportation --- is in the process of being scheduled.

Kathleen encouraged other ideas or even participation in future programs from commission members and said to let her or Justin know if they are interested in participating. Both Justin and Kathleen praised Eileen's performance at her recording session. Justin thanked Kathleen for all her work on this project.

ADA Projects

- Doherty Middle School --- Justin gave a quick update on the Doherty School ramp replacement and elevator projects, a long-time need which will comply with the Americans with Disability Act and other building codes.

Vote to change ACOD meeting Date

It was moved by Stephen, seconded by Trish, and voted 6-0 to change the next ACOD meeting from the day before Thanksgiving to Wednesday, November 16, 2022.

Roll call: Kathleen, Y; Stephen, Y; Katherine, Y; Trish, Y; Jemma, Y, Justin, Y.

Announcements:

October 27th --- MOD Summit Somerville/Hybrid 10 A.M.

November 2nd and 3rd --- the last ADA Training (CAM) presented by MOD for the year, virtual

November 9th --- Master Plan Library 7 P.M.

November 10th --- Chris Waddell, "Name Tags" presentation. Carlene offered ACOD members an opportunity to attend a presentation by Chris Waddell, the first unassisted paraplegic to climb the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. He will be at Andover High School and the event will be sponsored by Liam Flanagan and the Schools Disabilities Awareness Club. Justin asked for an email on the details for commission registration/attendance.

Adjournment:

It was moved Katherine by seconded by Kathleen, and voted 6-0 to adjourn at 7:24 P.M.

Roll Call: Kathleen, Y; Katherine, Y; Stephen, Y; Trish, Y; Jemma, Y; Justin, Y.