

Commission on Disability (COD) Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2021

Present: Chairperson, Mike McCue; Rose-Marie Bissonnette; Lesley Allison; Daryl Blaney; guest, Selectman Jay Moody; volunteers, Pat Maguire; Christine Dynan

Absent: Lorry Doucet

1. Minutes: ACTION ITEM: Lesley will send out minutes again with corrections. COD will review and approve the text in the next meeting.
2. Tracker document: ACTION ITEM: Lesley will add a status column to the document to indicate "Resolved" or "In suspense".
3. Town meeting: Mike communicated to Orlando about a request from Alix concerning accessibility. Orlando was not aware of any issues. Concerns that were discussed at the COD meeting included 1) access to the microphone; 2) access to portable toilets; 3) handicapped parking. Read the warrant online. Make sure there is a mention that a sign language interpreter can be there on request. Mike gave Orlando the appropriate language to add to the town warrant in order to educate the public that a sign language interpreter can be available with advance request. Mike is unclear whether the language made it onto the warrant.
4. Gazebo: The Lancaster Fire Department is willing to provide the labor for the ramp project.
5. Beach / playground: A photo opportunity is still in the planning stages.
6. Town website: A quote for the work for full accessibility compliance was received but it was extremely high. The town has decided to first try to address the issues "in house" as much as possible and identify areas that may need professional help.
7. Follow up on Salon / library parking sign:
  - o No changes have been made to the salon entrance. ACTION ITEM: Mike will inquire about the status.
  - o No changes have been made to the library parking sign.
8. Selectman Jay Moody informed the COD that Governor Baker and the State Representatives have adopted legislation disallowing Zoom meeting decision making as of today. Meeting votes may not be binding in the Zoom meeting format going forward. Issue TBD.
9. Outreach initiative: A group discussion presented the following questions and suggestions:
  - o How is the survey returned? Town input is needed.
  - o If it is mailed, funding will be required. Can we include it in the town census?
  - o If the format of the questionnaire is changed to landscape, it will allow for a comment section on each question.
  - o We should add an outreach phone number for possible questions or verbal engagement.
  - o We can use the survey results to make recommendations to the town.
  - o We should add a note indicating confidentiality.

- ACTION ITEMS: Pat will look at condensing the intro letter. Rose will make revisions to the questionnaire and send it out to the group.
10. Lancaster Accessibility Awareness Month: Ideas generated and discussed as group included the following:
- Disability etiquette
  - Presenting a program to a group works better than inviting public in for attendance
  - Group ideas: schools, round table discussion in the library, Rose can present to a group of children, Girl Scouts, 4H group
  - Other possible disabled presenters / participants: Reach out to Brendan Aylward from Unified Health and Performance for ideas, Leominster COD member, Heather from the Boston marathon bombing
  - Church programs: First church? Can Daryl look into a College Church LAAM effort?

Meeting adjourned:

7:58pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Lesley Allison