

Lancaster Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2014

Members Present: Chairman, Mike McCue; Lesley Allison, Rose Bissonnette, Daryl Blaney, Marilyn Chambers, Lorry Doucet, Sue Smith, Carolyn Stump.

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by Mike McCue

1. REVIEW & APPROVE MINUTES FROM 1/21/14 MEETING
 - a. January 22, 2014 minutes approved (rescheduled from Jan 21 due to weather)
 - b. February 20, 2014 minutes reviewed with corrections to be made for review & approval at next meeting.
2. Town Matters: Town Beach, OSRC, Trails, LCC Elevator, Sunoco, and other updates
 - a. Town Beach
 - i. Mike reported that AAB has accepted the request for variance in toilet rooms regarding placement of doors etc.
 - b. OSRC
 - i. Lesley has received a list of all of Lancaster's known paths & trails from Noreen Piazza, Town Planner.
 - ii. Daryl has sent Noreen information regarding a Webinar, "American Trails", and how to obtain the USDA "Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation and Trails".
 - c. Trails
 - i. An area of common trails is planned for Eagle Ridge in their "55 and over" community. Ken Raposa, Chair of the Conservation Commission, spoke with Mike about these plans and would like the COD's input. The plan in its current design will pose significant accessibility issues.
 - ii. April 26 a walk-through is planned and Mike encouraged those COD members that could to participate.
 1. Lesley will loan a copy of USDA "Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation and Trails" to Ken Raposa.
 - d. LCC Elevator
 - i. A letter, from the AAB, dated Feb 25, 2014, acknowledged and accepted the January status report that was submitted by Alix Turner. AAB does require a copy of the signed construction contract and the check deposit within 14 days of receipt of this Feb 25, 2014 letter.
 1. Mike will follow up with Alix Turner
 - e. Sunoco
 - i. Reported by Mike: After Peter Munro asked Mike to look at Sunoco Station, stating concerns that the station had accessibility issues, Mike reviewed the location. Mike noticed various accessibility problems (which he explained to the commission) and relayed the concerns to Peter. Peter, in turn, requested that Mike contact the station owner to

answer questions the owner had. Mike contacted the owner, who stated he had no questions and was now “all set”. Mike followed up with Peter, who replied that he had received a letter from a Mass. State Registered Architect which said that the total existing building renovation cost did not rise to the level of required compliance with AAB code CMR 527 as defined in Section 3.00 Jurisdiction. Therefore, Peter had issued a certificate of occupancy, with certain conditions, that will be pending on the satisfactory completion of the approved site plan by the Planning Board. The conditions Peter referenced were not detailed to Mike.

- f. Other Updates
 - i. Mike will follow up regarding the report of a missing HP sign at Workers Credit Union (WCU contact would be “Donna”)
- 3. Canvassing Summary Report
 - a. Lesley showed Mike final printed document of Summary Report & will email him a copy.
- 4. Accessibility Awareness Month
 - a. Mike contacted the Horseshed Fair Committee of the Unitarian Church. They, in turn suggested Mike contact the Town regarding use of Town Green on the same day (Oct 4).
 - i. Mike will follow up.
 - b. Mike will arrange PR, Marketing , Publicity
 - c. Plan 6 events during month, details TBD
 - i. Oct 4 weekend Horseshed Fair (possibly include celebrity guests?)
 - ii. Proclamation by Town with Board of Selectmen
 - iii. Safety – Fire, Police
 - iv. School presentations
 - v. “Disability Walk” –
 - vi. Have Sue, Town Clerk, send out with her email a “Fact for the Week” prepared by COD.
 - d. Mike requested that each commission member advise him, by the next meeting on April 15, the areas they would like to assist with. Advance planning, coordinating, preparation and execution of events will necessitate that all members be actively involved. (Examples: Daryl expressed interest in information gathering, Mike in PR/marketing)
 - i. A planning/task sheet will need to be generated. This is to be discussed at the next meeting.
- 5. Other Issues
 - a. Elderly and Disabled Tax fund
 - i. No new information at this time.

- b. Town Website
 - i. Mike approved the draft Lesley sent to him for review.
 - ii. Lesley will send all updates to Sue Thompson.
- c. Emergency Planning
 - i. Chief Hanson told Mike the “State Plan” has been updated, but he is still working on the Manual.
 - 1. Mike will follow up with Chief Hanson.
- d. Misc.
 - i. Carolyn reported on the “Helping Hands-Monkey Helpers” program recently presented at Thayer Memorial Library. This is a one-of-a-kind program which places well-trained monkeys with disabled or elderly clients, as appropriate, free of charge. Information literature was shared with each COD member and also with Alix Turner, COA Director. It is an exciting program, and available throughout the country from its headquarters in Boston.
 - 1. Websites: monkeyhelpers.org ; facebook.com/monkeyhelpers; twitter.com/monkeyhelpers
 - 2. Address: 541 Cambridge St, Boston, MA 02134
 - 3. Phone: 617-787-4419 ext. 105 / cell 617-470-3079
 - 4. Contact Name: Erica H. Noyes, Development and Communication Associate / erican@monkeyhelpers.org
 - 5. Daryl will add this information to the Resources Master List
 - ii. Lorry is attending the American Sign Language program sponsored by the Worcester Seventh-Day Adventist Church, and reports finding it very interesting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:13 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Stump, Minutes Secretary