

Commissioner on Disability (COD) Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022

Members present: Chairperson Mike McCue, Rose Bissonnette, Daryl Blaney, Lesley Allison;

Volunteers present: Pat Maguire, Jim Peters

Guest present: Sarah Nechamen

Meeting called to order: 6:04pm

1. Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved with proposed revisions.
2. Presentation by the Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC): Sarah Nechamen from the DPPC gave a short presentation regarding the mission of her group which aims to protect adults with disabilities aged 18-59 from abuse. Posters with the hotline reporting phone number and informational details will be posted in the Lancaster Community Center (LCC), the Thayer Memorial Library, and on the COD website. Mike will connect Sarah Nechamen with Jeff Dougan at the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) to assist with community outreach. Daryl will place a copy of the information in the COD resource binder.
3. Town matters:
 - a. The Landing - There is a new mixed residential and commercial building project proposed for North Lancaster across from Kimballs. The COD should monitor this project as it develops to provide recommendations on accessibility compliance as needed.
4. Action Item Status:
 - a. Memorial Bench for Lorry Brazeau: Lesley has been in email contact with the Nashoba Valley Climate Coalition who have agreed to the placement of the next bench at the LCC garden as a memorial to Lorry. While no formal accessible standards exist for benches, to meet recommended accessibility guidelines, the bench should be at least 17 inches in height and should have an accessible path and space for a wheelchair to pull adjacent. Volunteer Ann Fleury will be photographing benches outside of Spaulding Rehabilitation to share with the group as an example of an accessible bench.
 - b. Salon 131 on Main: Mike reached out to the complainant regarding the findings of the building inspector and advised the resident on a possible course of action.
 - c. Tracker status: Pat shared her revisions of the COD Initiatives Tracker document. She will update the tracker with a focus on the current year of 2022.
 - d. Survey takeaways: COD members and volunteers delineated the top 4 "takeaways" from the town survey results as listed below. Pat will summarize these findings and Mike will present survey results to the Select Board once a new Administrator has been hired.
 - i. Lack of / poor condition of sidewalks
 - ii. Lack of / poor communication from the town

- iii. Lack of benches / places to rest
- iv. Although there were many positive comments about the LCC, because it is a well utilized resource, making it fully accessible should be a priority.
- e. 2022 initiatives: COD members and volunteers agreed on a primary initiative for 2022 of emergency preparedness.

Meeting adjourned : 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted,
Lesley Allison