

COD Meeting Minutes
(Zoom format)
7/21/20

Meeting Called to Order: 6:09pm

Present: Members: Chairperson Michael McCue, Rose-Marie Bissonnette, Lesley Allison, Lorry Doucet; Volunteers: Pat Maguire, Christine Dynan; Guest: newly elected Selectman Jason Allison

Absent: Carolyn Stump, Daryl Blaney

1. Members reviewed and approved June Minutes.
2. Town Matters:
 - a. Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco reached out to Mike regarding a Massachusetts state grant opportunity through the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) to address ADA compliance in the Town of Lancaster. Mike and Orlando discussed and agree that the recommendations from the ADA Evaluation Plan presented by the Independent Living and Working Center should be used to identify problem areas to address. Specifically, areas identified in town public buildings would be the highest priority. COD members discussed other areas of priority including: the Lancaster Community Center (LCC) bathrooms, LCC parking, and the gazebo.
 - i. ACTION ITEM: COD members and volunteers brainstorm at home and highlight top 4-8 priority town accessibility items from the ADA Evaluation Plan to bring to the next meeting for discussion. Email your ideas to Christine by August 7th for compilation. This list can be given to Orlando for use in the grant application.
 - b. Mike requested that Selectman Jason Allison reach out to the Building Inspector of Lancaster to encourage him to connect with COD. Jason agreed to follow up on this request.
 - c. Other town accessibility items that remain uncorrected include: the MART van parking issue at the LCC, enforcement of parking guidelines at the LCC, and the handicapped signage at the front of the library.
3. LAAM - Lancaster Accessibility Awareness Month: Mike summarized the strategies that the Commission found successful in the past including those involving churches, schools, and the library. Other ideas in the LAAM discussion were as follows:
 - a. Consider how Covid 19 impacts the disabled community - Zoom has increased access due to global need for virtual experiences.
 - b. Fundraiser to purchase an accessible swing for the playground.
 - c. We could use virtual media with content on themes of disability.
 - d. We could use the town Zoom account to have a Zoom event with guest speakers; share heart-warming stories; have interactive content; open forum format.

- e. Re-broadcast the College church service from last year or get a new service filmed and broadcast.
- f. Consider themes that include mental illness, isolation, and trauma induced disabilities.
- g. Sterling Lancaster TV access: Denise Hurley interview.
- h. Consider the role of the Library.
 - i. ACTION ITEM: COD members and volunteers refine and prioritize ideas. Please submit to Christine by August 7th for compilation.

Meeting adjourned: 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted:
Lesley Allison