

June COD Minutes

June 18, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:10pm.

Present: Chair Michael McCue, Daryl Blaney, Carolyn Stump, Rose-Marie Bissonnette, Lesley Allison

Absent: Lorry Doucet, Marilyn Chambers

1. Minutes for April were reviewed, voted on and accepted.
2. Town Matters
 - a. Gazebo: It has now been moved to a different location and looks like it will remain on the green. It remains inaccessible at this time. Chair McCue continues to get complaints about this issue from a group of concerned Lancaster citizens and is stressing to Orlando and BOS, the need to address this.
 - b. ADA transition plan (PROW plan): "Santec" Consultants have been hired to assist Montachusett and the town with this plan.
 - c. Goodridge Brook Estates: At a recent ZBA meeting, Chair McCue advocated on the behalf of Lancaster residents concerns on the excessive distance from the furthest apartment units to the elevator in the multi-unit complex design. The Commission on Disability (COD) will continue to monitor Goodridge as it unfolds.
3. Businesses and Public Places evaluation continued:
 - a. A form letter format to businesses proposed by the COD was reviewed by Orlando Pacheco and Tony Zahariadis and approved.
 - b. Thayer playground: accessibility issues include the following: entrance needs to be graded and leveled or serpentine, gate is not accessible, there is no accessible play equipment, and the mulch base is difficult for a chair to roll on.
 - c. Trolley Stop: accessibility issues: there is sidewalk disintegration at the entrance and the customer counter too tall.
4. Town census: COD questionnaire planning for annual town mailing: We would benefit from attempting to engage some new volunteers / members. We need to make an early request for a full page with explanation on front and survey on the back.
5. COD recruitment efforts: consider approaching small groups- Unified Health and Performance, parents of school children, senior center, continue FB postings.
6. Lancaster Accessibility Awareness Month (LAAM): The COD discussed ideas for this year which included mental health issues (addiction or dementia). There is an interim pastor at the college church for Carolyn's planning. The size of posters for history of disability is cost prohibitive - Chair McCue will discuss with Joe Mule the possibilities of financial assistance to support this effort. Adaptive sports ideas were discussed. Lesley to contact a Brendan Aylward of Unified Health and Performance about involvement in LAAM.

Meeting adjourned: 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lesley Allison