



Commission on Disabilities

Minutes

Tuesday, Februray 15, 2022

10:00 am

Virtual Meeting at <https://actonma.zoom.us/j/94313570425> .

Present: Members, Joan Burrows, Lisa Franklin (co-chair), Leslie Johnson, Pesha Kokis (co-chair), Franny Osman, Melissa Wingfield.

Also, visitors John G., Bill K., Andy Magee, Linda Minkoff, and Daniel Roop.

Daniel Roop would like to **improve access at Theatre III** in West Acton. His grandfather began acting there. He is now 90 years old and would like to attend shows freely. Acton Historic District Commission has been a hurdle when proposed accessibility features affect the outer building envelope. There are various stair lift or elevator options. They are looking for grants. They will seek our support as needed. President of Theatre III board Linda M. also attended.

Beth Van Emburgh is **Acton's new full time Clinical Responder**, employee of the Police Department. She is a social worker and works on call five days a week. She works within the department, also, and coordinates with Laura Ducharme and Beverly Hutchings (Council on Aging) who follow up after Beth alerts them. Beth notes that the police are amazing in working with the public.

Two sets of minutes (Jan. 2022 and Feb. 2021) were accepted unanimously with Lisa Franklin moving and Pesha Kokis seconding.

There were no Select Board updates.

Franny mentioned that the Cemetery Committee has asked for Community Preservation funds to help make the Woodlawn Chapel become accessible. Support of our committee is needed.

Mass. Office on Disability (MOD) has asked our Commission to host a Community Access Monitor (CAM) training in Acton. It will be virtual and in early September. Any resident may join us. There will be two sessions, two and a half hours each. This training helps participants know what the laws are for full access in the community.

John G. is a resident who is blind and he was an EMT for 24 years and has worked with the Red Cross, Explorer Post, and many other organizations. He attended the meeting to introduce himself.

Andy Magee attended to discuss engineering work and accessibility features at the River Street park.

Meeting adjourned approximately 12 noon.

Notes taken by Joan Burrows, edited by Franny Osman

Acronyms:

CODA Commission on Disabilities Association (Mass.)

COA Acton Council on Aging

ER Emergency Room

TAC Acton Transportation Advisory Committee

SMOC Southern Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc.