



Commission on Disabilities

Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

11:00 am

Virtual Meeting

This meeting was virtual:

<https://actonma.zoom.us/j/94313570425>

Attending: Members Lisa Franklin, John Gianetto, Pesha Kokis, Franny Osman

Staff: Wanjiku Gachugi

Called to order 11:17 am

1) Regular Business

Public Concerns: For the record, Lisa shared that COD had gotten a call from someone who felt that they had undue difficulty interacting with Town Hall due to their disability, that we had communicated with them, and that they said they were satisfied with the situation.

Transportation update: We discussed budget proposal changes and asked Wanjiku to get information on our present and proposed budgets.

2) New Business

Human Service Committee: Franny was previously the COD representative member of the Human Service Committee. They now need another rep and Lisa was hesitant but has agreed to since no one else did. She has to apply through the Volunteer Coordination Committee (VCC).

Lisa Franklin, CODA update: The Statewide Independent Living Council thinks they have enough money to put on an all-day ADA celebration at Dunn Pond State Park in Gardner on August 2. They traditionally have accessible sports, activities, hiking trails and, if there is enough money, have a big cookout. If not, there are box lunches. The goal

shared at the committee meeting was clearly set at relax, have fun, feel pride at having a disability, and socialize with people you usually network with. "You get a whoosh from seeing so many people [with disabilities] in one place."

Priorities for the next three years: We discussed the potential focuses for COD work for the next year from a list that had been created during the October 2023 retreat. Franny moved, Lisa seconded, and the vote was 4-0 in approval of the following focuses:

- 2024: Housekeeping: Process/Infrastructure/Member Training
- 2025: Work in partnership with the Economic Development Department and Committee.
- 2026: Special Education/Transition to Adulthood at age 22.

Acronyms:

CODA Commission on Disabilities Association (Mass.)

COA Acton Council on Aging

MOD Mass. Office on Disability

TAC Acton Transportation Advisory Committee

SMOC Southern Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc.

The listed agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow advance notice. Send an e-mail to manager@actonma.gov or call the Town Manager's Office, or contact the Chair Lisa Franklin, by emailing lisafranklin58@gmail.com .