

Acton Commission on Disabilities (COD) Minutes: June 18, 2024

Members present: Peshia Kokis, Lisa Franklin, John Gianetto, Leslie Johnson, Melissa Wingfield, Joan Burrows (late due to technical trouble)

Also present: Wanjiku Gachugi (town staff), Jim Snyder-Grant (Select Board liaison), Franny Osman

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM.

Minutes from May 21, 2024 were accepted unanimously.

Public concerns: Transportation, acoustics in room 204

Select Board updates: The Select Board had a discussion and heard a report from the League of Women Voters (Acton Area) for possible options for increasing attendance at Town Meeting.

The Select Board is also in the process of making plans for short term and long term goals for this year. The final vote will be at their July 2nd meeting. Everyone is welcome to submit their ideas to the Select Board before then.

Liaison updates: John has the information about the cooling centers locations and schedule for the upcoming heatwave. To receive town messages and notifications of this sort, one needs to sign up with the link on the Town website.

Many CODs across the Commonwealth have plans for celebrations of the 24th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

As a result of advocacy efforts, there are no longer any plans to make cuts to the Personal Care Assistant (PCA) program or to centralize the evaluation process.

The town has plans to try out an all electric vehicle with possible plans to add a 2nd CAT bus.

Title 2: We reviewed the requirements for reasonable accommodation at government meetings. Peshia will contact the Town Clerk, the Town

Moderator, and the DEI director to find the best time for a meeting to discuss our process in enacting these regulations.

COD Vacation: We are taking a vacation in July and August. Melissa will let Pesha know when an email needs a response. Lisa and Pesha will respond to these.

Acton ADA Day: We voted unanimously to ask Acton Cable TV to display two (2) notices on the local station (Acton TV).

Strategic Plan: Leslie will contact all commissioners see if they have any support needs necessary to carrying out COD business. Lisa will work with Jim on identifying parts of the member book that needs updating.

Town Meeting follow-up: We approved letters to the Town Clerk and the Town Moderator, thanking them for how much they did for Town Meeting with regards to accessibility. Wanjiku will send everyone in the COD a copy and Lisa will send to Eva and Jo-Ann.

We adjourned at 11:44 AM.