

## **Acton Commission on Disabilities (COD) Meeting Minutes**

January 21, 2025

The meeting was held over Zoom and was called to order at 10:07 am.

**Members present:** Lisa Franklin, Pesha Kokis, Melissa Wingfield, Wanjiku Gachugi (Town staff), Jim Snyder-Grant (Select Board liaison)

**Members absent:** Leslie Johnson, John Gianetto, Joan Burrows

We unanimously approved the minutes from the November 19, 2024 meeting. We are now caught up with posting minutes for 2024 and can start fresh for 2025.

### **Announcements:**

1. The Architectural Access Board voted to deny the variance for 2 Powder Mill Rd saying the applicant had not proved “impracticability” but granted them the non-compliance on the sink depth for 2A units as long as the lease for those units clearly states that a request from any resident for a compliant sink would be granted one by the owner, free of charge, and within 30 days. (2A units are adaptable, and can be changed if requested).
2. The COD has made arrangements to show the movie “Crip Camp” on February 18 at the Senior Center. More discussion found below.
3. The Commission answered a request from someone seeking help filing a complaint for abuse and neglect against several private and state mental health facilities. She was given the number of the disabled persons Protection hotline and was advised to call Laura Ducharme if they were an Acton resident.
4. The annual Lobby Day at the State House for people with disabilities is usually held in March. Lisa will notify the group the exact date when it is set. She is also gathering information on transportation should we decide to attend.

5. Jim and Wanjiku have created the beginning of a resource list with information about town staff and departments the COD regularly works with.

**Select Board update:**

Jim says the select board is meeting with department heads on their budgets in preparation for recommendations at this year's town meeting. So far there is no big threat to transportation, but it still needs support from the public.

**Liaison updates:**

The Human Services Committee is no longer meeting due to lack of quorum.

**Treasurer's report:**

We have \$2,000 in our budget, with \$1,900 for projects and \$100 for supplies.

**Annual Report:**

Lisa wrote up the annual report for 2024. Melissa will edit the report and send it in to the town by the deadline of February 28. (Note: The Annual Report was emailed later that day on Jan 21, 2025 to: [townreport@actonma.gov](mailto:townreport@actonma.gov))

**Crip Camp movie:**

The Acton Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the Acton Commission on Disabilities will be hosting a free showing of the documentary, "Crip Camp" on February 18, 2025 from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm at the Senior Center. Please call 978-929-6611 to register.

If you live in Acton, transportation to the movie can be provided by Acton's free and accessible transportation program (CrossTown Connect). Call 978-844-6809 to book a ride there.

Crip camp is a movie that explores the roots of the Disability Rights Movement through a unique summer camp experience for children with disabilities, that many of the leaders of our Disability Rights Movement attended.

(The COD will be holding its February meeting hybrid (Zoom and in-person) at the Senior Center at 10:00 am, the morning before the movie, for any one interested in joining us).

For further information about the movie, email [cod@actonma.gov](mailto:cod@actonma.gov) or call the DEI department at 978-929-6611.

We unanimously voted to provide popcorn and drinks for the showing of the movie. Wanjiku wrote up a flyer. Lisa will contact the Action Unlimited to include an announcement, and will contact Marion Maxwell to put the information in her weekly newsletter. Pesha will contact the Acton Exchange. Lisa and Pesha will be the movie event sub-committee to determine how much popcorn and beverages once we have a head count from registrations.

### **Projects:**

We unanimously voted to focus on three projects this year under the goal of "building a united community of people with disabilities in Acton." We will offer an accessible experience on using the commuter train to interested members of the community, and create an ADA anniversary event. We will also create and maintain a place to put a collection of materials for our info tables, when needed.

### **Town budget:**

We voted unanimously for Lisa and Pesha to write an official letter to the Finance Committee supporting the funding of the transportation program in the upcoming budget.

Our February meeting will be hybrid on February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center.

We voted unanimously to adjourn at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wingfield.