

Acton Commission on Disabilities (COD): Minutes for May 20, 2025

Members present: Lisa Franklin, Leslie Johnson, Pesha Kokis, Melissa Wingfield, Jim Snyder-Grant (select board liaison), Wanjiku Gachugi (town staff)

Members absent: Joan Burrows, John Gianetto

Meeting called to order 10:00 am

Citizens Concerns: An Acton citizen joined us to discuss their suggestion that the town and the COD should better inform the availability of hybrid participation for those whose disability prevents them from attending town meeting. We invited her to attend our June meeting to talk about it more. In the mean time she can converse with Lisa about other concerns she has.

2010 needs survey: A commissioner from the Shrewsbury COD met with us and had some questions about the outreach survey she found on the COD website, that the Acton COD had done in 2010 to identify the needs of people with disabilities. The visitor felt that the survey was very useful and asked how we used the results (we use the statistics when advocating with the town for access or services, and general concerns to plan our goals and projects).

ADA day planning: Melissa asked permission to order more food. We unanimously gave her our approval. We all agreed to let the spending limit for food for the event be \$500, plus the \$100 gift card, making it \$600. Leslie will get in touch with Senator Eldridge, Representative Sena, and Representative Cataldo to come to the event. Jim will pass on our invitation to the Select Board. Lisa will write up a “save the date” announcement for the Acton Exchange, the Action Unlimited, and to post on the Acton Disability Forum. The event is not limited to Acton residents, so announcements /invitations will also go out to the Miracle League and other organizations of people with disabilities. Lisa will make sure that NARA staff will be able to demonstrate how to work the accessible bikes and water equipment. Pesha will follow up with Laura Ducharme on the transportation set up. An attempt was made to contact the teacher advisor

of the Disability Union Club at ABRHS. No one has responded yet. The adaptable bikes are once again available for the season at NARA park, and will be shown to people who come to the ADA event.

Acton Memorial Library support letter: A motion passed unanimously to sign the letter of support for the library's application for funds from Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) to completely refurbish the bathrooms and make them ADA compliant.

The MA Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its annual ADA celebration at Dunn Park in Gardner on August 1st, 2025.

Select Board Liaison Updates:

Work has begun on the accessible entrance to the chapel at Woodlawn Cemetery. Jim also reports that the next phase of the Firehouse Trial will be to have only 3 stations open. He has also talked to the COD to find out what role each will be able to take in our next election. He says everyone has expressed an interest to do something to ensure the COD continues to meet its mission. He hopes to be able to present a slate for our election in September.

We adjourned at 11:28 am.

Documents presented:

1. Letter from COD supporting library's application for grant money
2. Copy of summary of results from 2010 survey on needs of PWD