

Acton Commission on Disabilities (COD): Minutes for October 21, 2025.

Members Present: Lisa Franklin, Pesha Kokis, Leslie Johnson, Melissa Wingfield, Amanda Lodi.

Members absent: John Gianetto, Joan Burrows.

Also Present: Jim Snyder-Grant (SB liaison), Wanjiku Gachugi (Town Staff).

Meeting was called to order at 10:08 am.

Chair updates:

1. State legislature approved electronic voting (voting online). States handle it on an individual basis. Ask Town Clerk's office for more information.
2. Amie Richards from Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is asking what the COD's resources are in the area. She will be coming to the next meeting, in November.

Select Board updates: Jim reported that one of the Select Board's long term goals is to work on increasing attendance at Town Meeting. They would like our (COD's) input and opinion on any plans they develop.

Minutes: We approved the September minutes unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Leslie is looking into reimbursing Amanda for Oktoberfest.

Oktoberfest update: Amanda reported on Oktoberfest. Amanda, Melissa, and John were there all day. The Kids on the Block puppets were on the COD's table, and around 20 people signed up to help bring back the Kids on the Block puppet program ... to support the program in some way. Amanda will follow up with those people who signed up by email or phone, and will work with Joan Burrows on training and future development. Pesha said she could help with phone calls.

Travel training update: Lisa and Pesha were disappointed with the MBTA's presentation. It was not interactive, and the presenters did not seem confident in the information they were sharing. We voted unanimously to follow up with the actual train trip ourselves, instead of working with the MBTA again. Laura Ducharme will help us plan that event so that it will be successful. She suggested we try for a school holiday or vacation so that we can use bus drivers for the local transportation required. She also has copies of the information that had been presented at the workshop, so interested riders can apply for discount fares and IDs.

Member handbook: Lisa and Jim are working on the member handbook, which will include resources for members to look things up. Melissa will edit all before the final copy is made.

Public Concerns: There were no public concerns.

Annual Report: Lisa has begun working on the annual report which is usually due early in the new year. She will be using our strategic plan for a guide as to our work done in 2025. If any commissioner has a particular project they want to include in the annual report, they can email a summary of it to Wanjiku and she will pass it on to Lisa.

Town transportation update: The town hired a consultant to look at our town transportation system and recommend improvements. **Laura Ducharme** shared this report and answered questions. When we asked how we could help with supporting the transportation department, she said we could assist with outreach as not everyone in town knows about the service, and we could give input on the updating of the transportation website to make sure it is fully accessible. We will consider these things to work on for projects in 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

List of Documents used: September minutes, Transportation Consultant Report.