



## MILFORD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

52 Main Street, Milford, Massachusetts 01757

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### Minutes from the Meeting of February 20, 2013

On Wednesday, February 20, 2013, a meeting of the Milford Commission on Disability (MCOD) was held at Milford Town Hall. Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by M. Nicholson, Chairperson.

**Members Present:** Mike Nicholson, Demetra Edwards, Harold Rhodes, Fran O'Neill, and Tom Andruskevich.

**Members Unable to Attend:** Charles Hince, Dino DeBartolomeis, and Theresa Calcagni.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the meetings on December 18, 2012, and January 16, 2013, were reviewed. D. Edwards moved to accept the minutes as written; H. Rhodes seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Main Account balance \$622.21. Revolving Account balance \$6,421.86. T. Andruskevich moved to accept the Treasurer's report; H. Rhodes seconded the motion. The report was accepted by unanimous vote.

**Correspondence (Official):** 1) M. Nicholson noted that MCOD input to the Town of Milford Annual Report was submitted on January 31, 2013, 2) In an e-mail to M. Nicholson, Jeff Dougan of the Mass Office of Disability said he will attend our March 20 meeting.

### **Review of Current Projects:**

#### **(a) Accessibility-Businesses:**

- 1) MCOD plans to send a mailing to medical facilities in Milford re compliance with new ADA regulations dealing with access for mobility impaired patients. It will include a letter from M. Nicholson along with a booklet plus available tax incentives. H. Rhodes suggested that the Selectmen and Town Counsel review the mailing. Expected mailing date is April 1, 2013.
- 2) Expansion of the ICU/ER at Milford Regional Medical Center: MCOD would like to see the building plans and perhaps have MCOD represented on the hospital building committee.
- 3) Milford TV: H. Rhodes attended the open house and noticed some access issues; Building Commissioner John Erickson will check into it.

#### **(b) Site and Building Plan Reviews:**

- 1) Cornerstone Assisted Living: M. Nicholson received an affidavit from the architect that the building is in compliance with ADA & 521 CMR; H. Rhodes had questions regarding the accessibility of some rooms and the equipment to be used.
- 2) Blaire House: Issue of higher percent accessible spaces not being required since the facility will not be serving rehab outpatients.
- 3) M. Nicholson reviewed a proposed change in the wording of a builder's special permit application to the Planning Board that would certify compliance with ADA and 521 CMR regulations; this will need to be reviewed by Town Counsel.
- 4) 196 E. Main Street (Yum Yum Yogurt): No comments.
- 5) 23 Maple St: No HP signage indicated; M. Nicholson heard from architect.
- 6) Pending: 35 Birch St (Change of use to truck repair & sales): M. Nicholson will comment.

(c) Town Accessibility:

- 1) Louisa Lake: Accessible platform; D. DeBartolomeis arranged a meeting of appropriate parties on February 4 to discuss feasibility of building a reduced-budget platform.
- 2) Upper Charles Trail: a) H. Rhodes and M. Nicholson met on February 8 with the owners of land near CVS who are agreeable to licensing the use of the land to allow an accessible family rest area at that location; the owners have agreed to allow utilization of the whole property (approx. 5,000 sq ft); b) M. Nicholson found trail side accessible benches are available for \$660 each plus shipping.
- 4) Sidewalk Obstructions: a) T. Andruskevich followed up with Jeff Dougan of Mass Office of Disability about low-hanging "OPEN" flags at several Milford businesses; according to J. Dougan and the MAAB in an advisory opinion, the flags could be considered "protruding objects"; this will be discussed further with Jeff when he visits on March 20, b) M. Nicholson noted an encroaching bush at Milford Common; referred to J. Erickson, c) Route 16 Intersection Work: Issues remain with pedestrian crossing signals; M. Nicholson will follow up.
- 5) Draper Park Ramp: M. Nicholson reported that the portable ramp has been ordered and will be stored at the Police Station when not in use.
- 6) Accessible Voting Booths: H. Rhodes moved that MCOD expend up to \$1300 for the purchase of nine booths (one for each precinct plus Town Hall); T. Andruskevich seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- 7) Capital Projects: Hold for now.
- 8) Town By-laws: Question of town access laws vs. ADA Title II; T. Andruskevich contacted Town Counsel and is waiting for an opinion.
- 9) Accessible Parking at Post Office: Rte 16 renovations eliminated the HP spot in front of the PO; M. Nicholson sent a request to L. Celozzi to add an HP spot across the street.

(d) Disability Awareness:

- 1) Distribution of "ADA Guide for Small Business" and distribution of "Tax Incentives for Businesses-Barrier Removal:" On hold.
- 2) Milford Disability Community Awareness Day: On hold.
- 3) MCOD Web Site: T. Andruskevich has reviewed the web site and will submit changes to the Town Webmaster.

(e) Stenciled Handicapped Parking Logo: Will discuss with J. Dougan at March meeting.

(f) Conflict of Interest Training: M. Nicholson again reminded the members that since they are classified as town employees, they are required to complete the online ethics training at: <http://www.mass.gov/ethics/new-online-programs-available-december2012.html>

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Room 14, Milford Town Hall.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Andruskevich  
Secretary