



## **MILFORD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

**52 Main Street, Milford, Massachusetts 01757**

**Fax (508) 634-2324**

### **Minutes from the Meeting of March 20, 2013**

On Wednesday, March 20, 2013, a meeting of the Milford Commission on Disability (MCOd) was held at Milford Town Hall. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by M. Nicholson, Chairperson.

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

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

**Guests of the Commission:** Alice Knowlton, Jeff Dougan.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the February 20, 2013 meeting were reviewed. H. Rhodes moved to accept as written and D. DeBartolomeis seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Main Account balance \$371.27. Revolving Account balance \$6,421.86. H. Rhodes moved to accept, seconded by F. O'Neill. Report was accepted by unanimous vote.

**Correspondence:** 1) M. Nicholson received a letter from R. Fitzpatrick RE his Eagle Scout project, building a gazebo at Louisa Lake; he answered MCOd questions that had been raised about accessibility, 2) Town Administrator memo RE new allowance for mileage is 56½ cents/mile.

### **Discussion with Jeff Dougan of Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD):**

- Jeff distributed printed materials from MOD, and reviewed goals and by-laws established for commissions on disability in the Commonwealth
- He offered to assist with any surveys of town buildings and is willing to work with the new Town Administrator, Richard Villani, in his role as ADA Coordinator for Milford
- Jeff said he will promote accessible parking pavement stenciling with the Regulations Review Subcommittee of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board
- In response to the question whether the ADA is stricter than MAAB, Jeff said the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination mirrors Title III of the ADA
- Low flying "Open" flags in front of businesses in Milford need to be individually examined as potential violations, according to Jeff, who had asked the MAAB for their opinion
- Jeff said locator tones on crossing signal posts are not yet required by the ADA, but an individual with a disability can always make a reasonable accommodation request

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

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

- 1) MCOd will be sending a mailing to seventy-nine medical facilities in Milford re compliance with new ADA regulations dealing with access for mobility impaired patients. H. Rhodes said he will send a sample to each MCOd member.
- 2) Expansion of the ICU and ER at Milford Regional Medical Center: H. Rhodes has been appointed to the hospital Board of Trustees.
- 3) Milford TV: M. Nicholson sent a note to Building Commissioner J. Erickson RE access issues.

Continued

(b) Site and Building Plan Reviews:

- 1) Cornerstone Assisted Living: M. Nicholson will send questions to the building architect about the accessibility of the rooms and the equipment for use by individuals with disabilities.
- 2) Blaire House: As of March 5, M. Nicholson had not received building plans from J. Erickson.
- 3) M. Nicholson submitted comments to the Town Planner RE 35 Birch Street (Site\_212).

(c) Town Accessibility:

- 1) Louisa Lake: Accessible platform; M. Nicholson is waiting for sketches from Town Engineer Mike Santoro of a plan to construct a ~20X20 ft platform as close to the water as possible; another meeting to discuss building the platform is necessary.
- 2) Upper Charles Trail: A letter has been received from the owners of the land near CVS licensing the use of their land for construction of an accessible family rest area at that location; the owners have agreed to allow access to the whole property (approximately 5,000 sq ft); M. Nicholson sent information about accessible benches to Mike Bresciani, Parks Commissioner, and members of the MUCT committee.
- 3) Accessible Voting Booths: M. Nicholson reported that the booths have arrived.
- 4) Town By-laws: T. Andruskevich reported that Town Counsel has agreed to place an article in the next Town Meeting Warrant to change the Town By-laws on Handicapped Accessibility to comply with 521 CMR.
- 5) Accessible Parking at Post Office: Rte 16 renovations eliminated the HP spot in front of the PO; M. Nicholson said Town Engineer Mike Santoro supported and the Board of Selectmen have approved replacement with a new HP spot across the street.
- 6) Accessible Transportation for Milford Residents: Discussion of the lack of such transportation; D. DeBartolomeis suggested bringing up this issue again in a few months.

(d) Disability Awareness:

MCOD Web Site: T. Andruskevich has reviewed the web site and will submit changes to the Town Webmaster.

(e) Conflict of Interest Training: M. Nicholson again reminded the members they are required to complete the online training.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Room 14, Milford Town Hall.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM, on a motion by H. Rhodes, seconded by D. Edwards. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Andruskevich  
Secretary

Ref: Project Worksheet

CC: Board of Selectmen  
Department of Inspections