



COD Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2023

Meeting called to order: 6:05pm

Members Present: Chair Mike McCue, Daryl Blaney, Lesley Allison. Volunteers present: Pat Maguire, Jim Peters, Kathy Suits. Members Absent: Eugene Brazeau

1. Minutes were approved from the October Meeting.
2. Lancaster Accessibility Awareness Month (LAAM) Review:
  - a. Emergency Preparedness Guide: Was mailed out in November because of unforeseen delays. The public response has been largely positive. Mike will contact Jeff Dougan at the MOD and encourage him to share the information with other COD groups in the state of MA.
  - b. Podcasts: The COD should further promote the podcasts we created in conjunction with Thayer Memorial Library on social media to reach more individuals. Joe Mule and Rachel Rosengard would like to participate in podcasts again next year and have requested that we start the process much earlier. COD members also agree that the podcasts were a success and new episodes should be a part of future LAAM planning.
  - c. Daryl just learned that the Southern New England Conference of Seventh Day Adventists has a director of disabilities who can be a resource in the future.
3. Posthumously honoring Rose-Marie Bissonette: Mike has sent a letter to Heather Abbott of the Abbott Foundation and has also reached out to the NE Amputee Association. Unfortunately he has not heard back from either organization at this time. Mike is waiting to hear from these organizations prior to contacting Rose's family about our ideas. Geno is working on a memorial bench but we don't have an update at this time.
4. Lancaster Community Center: The town has completed the pathways from the lower garden to the shed and to the elevator entrance with pavers. It is noted that the lower entrances to the building do not have automatic openers. Mike will recommend adding an automatic opener to the door adjacent to the Senior Center.
5. Action tracker: Pat is updating and will distribute to the group
6. Initiatives for 2024:
  - a. Town wide accessibility: We should consider dividing up town businesses / buildings and assessing accessibility.
  - b. New COD office in the LCC? Mike will follow up with Kelly Dolan to further discuss.
  - c. Town website accessibility: Will continue to assess and recommend improvements.
  - d. Next meeting we look at initiatives and action items and do some blue sky thinking for next year.

Adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Allison