

COD Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2024

Present: Chair Mike McCue, Lesley Allison, Daryl Blaney

Absent: Eugene Brazeau

Volunteers present: Jim Peters, Kathy Suits, Pat Maguire



Meeting called to order: 6:11pm

1. November 2023 Minutes were reviewed and accepted.
2. 2024 COD Strategic Planning:
 - a. Following much discussion, it was determined that the COD should use 2024 to get “back to basics” and revisit previously initiated commission tasks such as:
 - Sidewalk improvement
 - Monitoring the accessibility of town entities and Lancaster business infrastructure (includes gazebo mat and town hall parking)
 - Town website accessibility
 - Lancaster Community Center (LCC) improvements
 - Follow-up with town administration on the outreach survey
 - Accessibility of town meetings and elections
 - b. Accessible trail development:
 - Lesley was approached by Community Preservation Association member, Linnea Lakin, to discuss the opportunity for the development of an accessible trail access project in coordination with the Lancaster Land Trust and other entities. The COD agrees with the concept of accessible trails and has investigated the subject at various times in the past. Trail locations need to be carefully evaluated for accessibility and this effort can be undertaken. However while there may be sections of existing Lancaster trails that might meet the criteria for access, overall virtually every trail in town does not meet the criteria. There are also trail maintenance considerations that impact its sustained use. The optimum location for an accessible trail would be the earlier proposed Thayer Recreation paths but the status of this project is currently unknown. The Lancaster Recreation Committee could be contacted to inquire about the status of this project. Lesley also forwarded information on a MA Grant opportunity for accessible trails.

- c. COD membership:
 - Unfortunately, Geno Brazeau has indicated to Mike that he will be resigning from the COD .
 - A motion was made by Chair McCue to nominate Jim Peters to become a member of the COD. The motion was carried unanimously.
 - The COD would also benefit from the addition of more new members to help with our initiatives as well as to help establish meeting quorums.
 - d. Lancaster Accessibility Awareness Month:
 - The COD will continue to plan events / programming for October. The Thayer Memorial Library will be included in the early planning process.
3. Honoring Rose Bissonnette:
- a. Mike is frustrated that he has not had any responses from the Abbott Foundation and the New England Amputee Organization.
 - b. Lesley will check in with Geno about the bench for Rose.
4. Action items / recent activity status:
- a. Mike will be following up on several items with town administration including but not limited to:
 - Town Hall accessible parking for employees and visitors
 - A new COD office in the community center
 - LCC accessibility
 - Emergency Preparedness Guide - Mike has recommendations for changes to the access of the virtual guide version on the town website.

Meeting adjourned: 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted,
Lesley Allison