

Minutes – Disabilities Commission February 24 2009< Nock School

Present - Flaherty, Lyons, Nutter; absent – Garcia, Holaday – both illnesses, Trodella, Donovan in Florida.

1) Finances – Disabilities Commission Revolving Fund - \$5,561.23

New Account #s, for deposits – 49,400; for expenditures – 50,000. Kathy in the Auditor’s Office told me to get this information in the future from Dianne Eppa. Kathy will send me a print out of our receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year 2009 from July 1, 2008 to date

- 2) Chip, Shawn, and Tom talked about the general situation of the Commission. The community as to architectural access seems to be doing much better in living up to the code as set forth in the states 521 CMR as enforced by the MAAB. The schools are doing well with special education relative to the Massachusetts law – 766; in terms of employment we can be proud of Opportunity Works, though we don’t know too much about the general situation as to the disabled and employment; public accommodations are a mixed bag. Owners are certainly better informed about access issues, but we could do more education. The effort to spread portable ramps to make NBPT stores and restaurants more accessible has not worked despite an effort over several years with the Lagasses and three mayors. Certainly the Building Inspector is well informed and has done a good job on enforcement and the Planning Office is doing very well – Dianne Eppa on Title II of ADA (public buildings and public transportation) and Geordie Vining on Special Projects.
- 3) We need to replace Pat Fry. I would suggest that we try to find a person who has long social ties in NBPT and has the enthusiasm of a Ralph Ayres to spread the word among organizations. Use the Daily News as well.
- 4) Next Meeting 2nd Wednesday in March, the 11th. That date seemed to be best or those present; we hope it is good for those who could not be there. OK?

Tom Lyons, Secretary