

Sheffield Commission on Disabilities
Thursday, February 18, 2010
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
4:00 PM

Commission Members Present: Denise Rueger (Chair) came a few minutes late
Laura Grunfeld
Noah Parsons
Don Perry
Dave Wells (with the assistance of Nan Wells)

Assistant Town Administrator: Rhonda LaBombard

Visitors: Nancy Perry and Candice Parsons

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM

NO APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

As no formal minutes were taken, there were none to approve. Minutes will be written up from all of our notes and approved at a later date.

FOLDING CHAIR NOW IN SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL ENTRYWAY:

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON CURB CUTS, SIDEWALKS, AND ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS FOR OUR PRESENTATION TO THE SHEFFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

- 1.) Research where we can possibly get funding so that our presentation comes with a more do-able approach
- 2.) The presentation should include the best case scenario ... all 5 locations
- 3.) And our bottom line of 2 which would be the Wheeler and Taylor crossway and the one to and from the Library
- 4.) Crossing yellow push button blinking light at the Wheeler and Taylor cross walk

- 5.) We will walk the 5 sites, early April, (with Dave on his scooter) we will take more notes, possibly more photos, so we can make the best of the presentation walk with the Selectmen
- 6.) Write up findings from our accessibility walk so that we can give the Board of Selectmen a stop by stop write-up / hard copy
- 7.) 2nd meeting in April we will present our findings and hard copy to ourselves for editing and finalizing
- 8.) Re-work and tighten up hard copy and access walk so that it is ready for presentation
- 9.) And then ask the Town of Sheffield Board of Selectmen to put the Commission on Disability on their agenda and allow enough time to work with hard copy presentation and do the 5 point accessibility walk with us (Dave on scooter and perhaps Perry will push his son in a wheelchair)

DISCUSSION FOLLOWED REGARDING THE SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL VOTING SITE NOT BEING VERY DISABILITY FRIENDLY AND CONCERN REGARDING THE ELEVATOR MALFUNCTIONING ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION:

- 1.) Candice Parsons was asked to speak regarding voter needs as she sees them through the eyes of the Voting Warden. She said that just in the last 2 voting elections, Sheffield had many disabled voters.
- 2.) Discussion followed concerning the provisional voting set up
- 3.) Candice added that there needs to be a way to let Sheffield voters know that the Voting Warden is there to help and that Sheffield voters may need to know they can ask for help if she hasn't noticed the need

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to move forward through the proper channels with our recommendation to move future Sheffield Election voting to the Sheffield American Legion Hall until the new Senior Center is ready to have voting take place there. Candice Parsons said she could support this request and Noah Parsons said he would write the letter, if needed, to put this recommendation before the proper Committee.

THE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES' PRESENTATION SCHEDULED FOR THE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD KIWANIS MEETING AT THE BRIDGE RESTAURANT WAS FINALIZED ... 2 MIN PER SPEAKER: (Dinner will be served from 6 -7 the cost per person will be \$15 and the business meeting to start at 7:15 p.m.)

- 1.) Rueger to introduce the Commission members
- 2.) Rueger to present Commission on Disabilities' over view of our projects
- 3.) Parsons and Perry curb cuts etc.
- 4.) Wells (assisted by Nan Wells) Town Hall suggestions under consideration
- 5.) Grunfeld the March 18 Workshop on Disabilities' Training Seminar

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that at the following Kiwanis meeting, which is to be attended by Smitty Pignatelli, that Rueger will see what suggestions he has to offer regarding grants/money/assistance that he might be aware of that would help Sheffield get appropriations for curb cuts, crosswalks, sidewalks etc.

DISCUSSION FOLLOWED REGARDING THE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES' NEEDS REGARDING THEIR LINK TO THE TOWN OF SHEFFIELD'S WEB SITE: Moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to make a list of needs for our portion of the Town's web site and present them as a whole to Assistant Administrator LaBombard instead of having them trickle in to her little by little.

CENSUS RETURN BROUGHT ONE RESPONSE: Dale Alden suggested we secure a locked box outside the Town Hall for mailings/communications to be placed when the Town Hall Offices were not open. It is our understanding that there is a locked box stored in the Town Hall that might be used for this purpose. Wells moved, and was seconded, and unanimously approved that we would communicate with each citizen who brings issues to this Commission some kind of response, so that each suggestion did not fall on dead, unresponsive ears.

**GRUNFELD BROUGHT THE COMMISSION UP TO SPEED
REGARDING PROGRESS WITH THE DISABILITIES' SEMINAR
SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18th:**

*The Meeting was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to
be adjourned.*

Chair Rueger adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells]
Clerk