

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
Thursday, May 20, 2010  
SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
4:05 PM**

Commission Members Present: Denise Rueger (Chair)  
Noah Parsons (Vice Chair)  
Laura Grunfeld  
Maryann Hyatt  
Don Perry

Absent: Judy Steindler  
Dave Wells (Nan Wells)

No Guests:

Chair Rueger called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM

**May 20, 2010, 4:05 PM – 5:15 PM  
Town Hall Downstairs Meeting Room**

**May 6 Minutes Approved with Corrections**

Don motioned to accept the May 6 Commission meeting minutes pending two corrections on page 3. When printed, the logo obscures part of the print on page 3 and in the last paragraph; the word "graciously" is misspelled. We ask that Dave and Nan make the corrections and reprint the minutes for submission to the town clerk. Maryann seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with 5 yeas votes.

**Maryann Hyatt's first meeting**

This was Maryann's first meeting. Members went around the room and described why they are involved with the Commission. For (*how many?*) years, Maryann has worked in the field of developmental disabilities at Berkshire County ARC in Pittsfield. She is the coordinator of advocacy and family support services. She oversees the self-advocacy groups and performs legislative advocacy. She is very familiar with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Maryann works with many families in southern Berkshire County who have children with disabilities. Her roll has been in a networking capacity. She makes sure children get the education they are entitled to and helps them figure out what the next steps are as they become teens and adults. Maryann mentioned that ARC recently helped to establish adult family care. This program provides financial compensation to people who care for a family member with disabilities in their home. Maryann writes grants as well. She has lived in Sheffield for 6 years, 2 years as a permanent resident.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Crosswalks and Curbcuts**

Don and Noah described the Commission's efforts to make Sheffield more accessible by

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revamping the crosswalks and installing curb cuts. Noah suggests a blinking light by the church and by the library. A letter has gone to the Department of Transportation.

### **ALD**

A staffer from the United Cerebral Palsy organization in Pittsfield delivered an Assistive Listening Device (ALD) to the Town Hall today. Commission members took turns trying out the ALD during the meeting. The ALD is on loan for two to three weeks while we decide if the town will purchase one or two of these devices.

### **RSVP Calendar**

There was some discussion about the first draft of the disability resource section of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) calendar. Suggestions for additional listings included:

- All Commissions, Committees and ADA coordinators for all towns in Berkshire County.
- American Legion medical equipment loan program.
- Accessible recreational facilities.
- Voice and video relay services.

### **COD Resources Library**

Denise reported that she is meeting with the Aktion club this evening and that she will propose that Aktion get involved in helping to establish the Commission on Disabilities' Resources Library at the Bushnell-Sage Library.

Don motioned that we discuss new business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Solar Powered Signs**

Don just returned from North Carolina where he noticed solar powered crosswalk and directional signs. He suggests that the Commission look into that possibility for our crosswalk signs in Sheffield.

#### **RSVP Letters Returned**

Letters that Dave and Nan sent to Normalyn Powers and Jackie Dellert regarding the RSVP calendar were found in the Commission's mailbox and had been marked "returned to sender" for having an incorrect address. Laura left a message on the answering machine of the RSVP requesting their correct address. Denise will take the letters home, correct some typos that Noah caught, and send out the letters again when we have the correct address.

#### **Laura to be Absent Next Meeting**

Laura notified the members that she would not be present at the June 3 meeting.

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### **June 3 Meeting Agenda**

The agenda for the next meeting is: 1. Further discussion re the RSVP Calendar project. 2. Discuss performing a Community Analysis. 3. Update re fixing pitch of ramp to front door of Town Hall. 4. Denise to prepare and present a synopsis and outline of the topics we have discussed to date. (This will be a condensed version of what Dave and Nan prepared).

Don motioned that we adjourn the meeting. Noah seconded. There were no objections.

Meeting closed at 5:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura Grunfeld  
Standing in for David Wells, Clerk