

Sheffield Commission on Disabilities
Thursday, January 27, 2010
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
4:00 PM

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

Visitors: Hope and Howard Swanson

Chair Rueger called the meeting 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.

RUEGER WELCOMED HOPE AND HOWARD SWANSON. It was thought that Hope might join the Commission as she mentioned that she had a disabled grand-daughter and was interested in joining our Commission. She gave us her E-Mail address so we could keep her in the loop: rosiehope@aol.com.

PARSON AND PERRY PRESENTED PHOTOS AND ACCOMPANYING SHEFFIELD BUSINESS AREA RTE. 7 CORRIDOR MAP REGARDING THEIR FINDINGS ON THE 5 AREAS IN NEED OF CURB CUT, SIDEWALKS, AND

ACCESSIBILITY: The discussion zeroed in on 5 locations that were NOT disability friendly/or useable:

- 1.) Miller Ave
- 2.) Antique Shop
- 3.) Wheeler and Taylor to town center
- 4.) Library
- 5.) Berkshire School Road cross-over

Parson's presentation included large 8 x 10 mounted photos of the areas under discussion. He had put in much time, in lousy weather, to take the photos that left no doubt about the needs under discussion.

PARSON'S PHOTOS SHOWED JUST HOW SEVERE THE ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION WERE AND PROVED WHY WE HAD SUCH CONCERNS: The Parson photos brought to fore just how badly the Route 7 business corridor inaccessibility issues were and solidified why this subject was such an important one to the Commission and should be to others!!!

DISCUSSION FOLLOWED ON WHAT WOULD BE OUR NEXT STEP TO CARRY OUR SHEFFIELD BUSINESS ACCESS CORRIDOR CONCERNS FORWARD: It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to invite Administrator Kellogg and Building Inspector Carmody to our next meeting of February 4, 2010.

OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN WERE DISCUSSED TO REVIEW WITH BOTH ADMINISTRATOR KELLOGG AND BUILDING INSPECTOR CARMODY:

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to share with administrator Kellogg and Building Inspector Carmody the following 11 issues and concerns:

- 1.) Access issues with Town Hall ... roadway
- 2.) Help button
- 3.) Power assist button
- 4.) Exit sign for the 2nd floor back stairs
- 5.) Small bench or solid seat/chair for entryway waiting
- 6.) Voting moved back to the Sheffield American Legion
- 7.) Evacuation chair
- 8.) Parson and Perry's Curb cut, sidewalks and accessibility presentation
- 9.) Do we have a liaison person for this committee?
- 10.) Do we need to write, in a formal document, our suggestions, concerns, to get feedback to the concerns we make known?
- 11.) This Commission still needs to be added to the Town of Sheffield's Web site along with our Commission approved Logo.

PERRY SAID HE KNEW GEORGE OLEAN AND THAT HE WOULD SPEAK TO HIM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL FOR SHEFFIELD VOTING:

WELLS HANDED OUT SOME DRAFT DESIGNS WORKED UP FOR A COMMISSION LETTERHEAD ALONG WITH COMMISSION RETURN ADDRESS LABELS: The letterhead designs were discussed. It was then moved to accept the right facing logo for the left hand corner of *the* letterhead. It was so moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

GRUNFELD UPDATED THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF THE DISABILITY TRAINING MEETING: She said that Jeff Dougan of the Mass. Office on Disability and Mary Makuc had both agreed to speak at the training. Suggestions were made about inviting other County Agencies ie. Council on Aging etc. *It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to use our scheduled March 18 meeting time for the Disability training Session.*

Perry suggested we set up a table for various handouts and brochures. It was also suggested that we need to get PR done for the March 18 meeting to insure its success. *It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved for Grunfeld and the Commission to move forward on setting up the Disability Training Session.*

Rueger said that she thought the Kiwanis Club and the Aktion Club might be willing to furnish light snacks for the Session as one of their service projects.

THE GROUP WAS REMINDED THAT OUR NEXT MEETING WOULD BE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2010 AT 4 PM.

Perry moved, a second was signaled by Wells, and the meeting was unanimously approved to adjourn.

Chair Rueger adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells]
Clerk