

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

**Saturday, April 2, 2011
BUSHNELL-SAGE LIBRARY UPSTAIRS
11:00 AM**

Commission Members Present: Laura Grunfeld Interim Chair
Dave Wells [with the assistance of Nan Wells] (clerk)
Don Perry

Visitors: Claudia Martin

Interim Chair Grunfeld called the C.O.D. meeting open at 11:00 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Commission on Disabilities for March 18, 2011 were moved to be approved by Grunfeld, seconded by Perry, and unanimously approved as written.

REPORT ON C.O.D. NEW MEMBERS' RECRUITMENT PROGRESS:

PERRY WILL REPORT ON PROGRESS WITH ACQUIRING WINTER CROSSWALK PHOTOS AT OUR MAY 2011 MEETING

CHANGING C.O.D. MEETING DAY AND TIMES: the when and where to hold future C.O.D. meetings was discussed. After considerable discussion, Grunfeld moved, and Perry seconded that the Sheffield C.O.D. would meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM. It was unanimously so approved.

CHANGE OF SHEFFIELD C.O.D. LOCATION: After considerable discussion, it was moved by Wells and seconded by Perry that the C.O.D. move their monthly meetings to the Bushnell-Sage Library downstairs if the Town Administrators give doing so there OK. It was unanimously approved. Grunfeld will check with Town Administrator Kellogg or Ass't Town Administrator LaBombard for their approval to move the Sheffield C.O.D. monthly meetings to the Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Library.

NEW C.O.D. SEMINAR SERIES: The idea of featuring a C.O.D. Speaker Series at each of our meetings was discussed as a way to educate ourselves and the Sheffield community as to various services available to those with disabilities, or caregivers of those with disabilities in Sheffield. The group felt that having a speaker forum would be a good way to accomplish part of our Mission Statement. Discussion continued regarding whether the Speaker Series /Forum should come before the regular C.O.D. meeting, after the C.O.D. meeting, or whether it should be a part of the regular meeting.

Grunfeld moved that we feature a different informational Speaker/s each month , Wells seconded her motion and it would be considered unanimously so approved after Grunfeld discussed with Administrator Kellogg or Ass't Administrator LaBombard's where they felt this new C.O.D. feature should be incorporated into the Commissions' meeting framework.

WELLS SUGGESTED THAT BERKSHIRE RIDES/CTAA AND SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE ELDERLY TRANSPORTATION CORP. SHOULD BE THE PRESENTERS FOR OUR 1st SPEAKER SERIES WHICH WOULD BE FOR OUR MAY MEETING.
Unanimous agreement.

A TENTATIVE SPEAKER SERIES PRIORITY LIST WAS COMPILED:

List of groups we want to ask to make presentations at our speaker series.

1. Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation; Berkshire Rides; Sheffield Senior Center
2. Special Olympics.
3. United Cerebral Palsy
4. MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; a relay service
5. Perkins School for the Blind; BRIDGE Elder Blind Program (this a program for elders who are blind but I think operated by Ma Com for the Blind); Mass Commission for the Blind.
6. Berkshire County ARC
7. Community Health Programs (CHP)
8. AdLib Inc.

REPORT ON C.O.D. MEMBERS' TRIP TO BERKSHIRE PRIDE DAY: less vendors than our November 2010 Resources Fair here in Sheffield but more attendees. It was definitely a beneficial trip as the Sheffield C.O.D. received many compliments on our Resources Fair, it kept our lines of communication open with our resource connections, and it was a great day for C.O.D. bonding.

THE LYME DISEASE DVD HAS BEEN VIEWED BY ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SHEFFIELD C.O.D.: After much discussion regarding the dynamics of the many layers surrounding the recognition and treatment of Lyme Disease, Perry moved, Wells seconded, and it was unanimously so approved that we ask all members of the Sheffield Board of Selectmen to watch this powerful DVD.

SENIOR CENTER LUNCHEON: discussion followed regarding the Sheffield C.O.D. Mission presentation to the Seniors at their April 21 luncheon. We decided each would share briefly why we joined, and what were our hopes and future goals for the

Commission. Grunfeld, as our Interim chair, would be the major presenter and be the one to give a general overview of the C.O.D. accomplishments this past year and the group goals already under way for the future. Grunfeld would also let those in attendance know that this Commission is actively seeking new members as well as encourage all that they are welcome to come to our monthly meetings and to communicate, at any time, new goals and issues for us to consider.

MARTIN WILL WRITE A PRESS RELEASE: Martin will write a press release draft regarding our new Speaker Series and include an encouragement for Sheffield residents to consider joining our Commission or join us as a visitor.

OUR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE MAY 20, 2011 at 3:30 PM

AGENDA: 1.) Berkshire Rides/CTAA Speaker Series 2 Perry update on snow photos of crosswalks 3.) New membership recruitment progress update continued 4.) Speaker Series Update ... Accessible Recreation 5.) And any other business as necessary.

Perry moved to adjourn this meeting, seconded by Wells, and unanimously so approved.

Grunfeld adjourned the meeting at 12:06 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells] Clerk