

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
Friday, April 23, 2012  
Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Library Downstairs  
3:30 PM**

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

Claudia Martin

Visitor: Lori-Beth Amato

Interim Chair Grunfeld called the C.O.D. meeting open at 3:30 PM

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the Commission on Disabilities for Friday March 23, 2012 were moved to be approved by Martin, seconded by Grunfeld, and unanimously approved as written.

**GRUNFELD WELCOMED OUR VISITOR:** Grunfeld introduced and welcomed Lori-Beth Amato to the Commission and the Commission members, in turn, introduced themselves. Grunfeld gave a brief overview of the history of the Sheffield C.O.D. and outlined some of its projects and accomplishments. Lori-Beth shared with the Commission her wide range of experiences and why she was considering and interested in becoming a member of this Commission.

**VARIOUS ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- 1.) Pot Luck Picnic this summer –“Making Connections”- with Kiwanis, Key Club, and Aktion Club. After considerable discussion it was moved by Wells and 2nded by Martin to have the picnic at the Sheffield Town Park. This motion was unanimously approved. It was suggested we contact Gail Mullen to approach the Aktion Club with our desire to have a shared social occasion with them along with some possible available dates. Martin was asked to spearhead this collaborative occasion as team leader.
- 2.) Grunfeld updated the Commission regarding the Open Space Plan & the Sheffield Town Park. The outcome of this update, was the desire of the Commission to see if the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen

- 2.) Continued – might implement some of the Grunfeld recommendations without waiting for the presentation from the Open Space Committee. Grunfeld was asked to follow up, in this regard, with the Town Administrator.
- 3.) The lack of accessible portable toilet accommodations at the Sheffield Town Park was moved up to the top of the C.O.D. hopes for possible Town approval for this summer.
- 4.) Grunfeld reported that she spoke with LaBombard regarding the Commission's minimal expenses.
- 5.) October Speaker Series – discussion followed with the idea that having the C.O.D. Speaker Series as part of the regular October Luncheon (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, October 18, 2012) might be a good opportunity to present a program regarding issues and possible aides for the hearing impaired. Perhaps Karran Larson or another representative of the MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, or a representative from Ad Lib might be willing presenters. Martin volunteered to run this idea by John-Arthur Miller for his feedback and whether the date was one acceptable to the Senior Center Calendar. Wells volunteered to design flyers. It was also suggested we work up a resource list for venues which help with hearing impairment issues and needs.
- 6.) The Spring 2013 collaborative event has been given the green light to proceed by the Town Administrator. Grunfeld needs to confirm with the school but once that is done we will start putting together a list of local summer activities for kids that include kids with disabilities.
- 7.) Martin will meet with Nancy Hahn, of the Library, for a possible collaborative article about inclusive summer activities for Sheffield youth.
- 8.) The next *Sheffield Times* article could highlight a successful summer picnic and include a blurb regarding the October Speaker Series – "Hearing Impairments/Disabilities." From time to time, the C.O.D. write up in *The Times* could spotlight a new C.O.D. member or another member of the Commission.

- 9.) The Commission is re-considering the possibility of having an on line presence, again. Lori-Beth was very interested in this possibility and was asked if she was willing to research what other Commissions on Disabilities had on their own web pages.
- 10.) Wells was asked to print out a copy of the Town website C.O.D. Commission link for the May meeting with suggestions for updating.
- 11.) Grunfeld volunteered to research, after October, portable sound systems for the hard of hearing that could be used at Town functions. She is to inquire at Southern Berkshire Regional School District and United Cerebral Palsy to see what equipment might be available for loan. Grunfeld will also research different systems, sources for obtaining a system that would service our needs, and how much these systems might cost. The results of her research will be shared and discussed with the C.O.D. and a copy of her findings will be shared with LaBombard.
- 12.) C.O.D. Members whose appointments are up in June are Martin and Perry. These two members will receive a letter from the Town notifying them of such. Letters of wishes to be re-appointed should be submitted after the Town has sent these letters out. The Commission is hoping that both C.O.D. members will choose to seek a re-appointment as both Martin and Perry have been invaluable to this Commission.
- 13.) Grunfeld reminded the Commission of events/issues of possible interest to members: Sprout Film Festival, NADF (No Asphalt Defense Fund), and the Berkshire Legislative Breakfast.

**THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE:** Friday, May 18, 2012 at 3:30 PM at the Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Library, downstairs meeting room.

**AGENDA:**

1. Summer 2012 collaborative picnic
2. October Speaker Series' Program
3. *Sheffield Times* C.O.D. article
4. Spring of 2013 collaborative event
5. Reports
6. Other business as necessary

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

Grunfeld adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells] Clerk