

# Sheffield Commission on Disabilities

Friday, May 18, 2012

Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Library Downstairs

3:35 PM

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

Visitor: Lori-Beth Amato

Interim Chair Grunfeld called the C.O.D. meeting open at 3:35 PM

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

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2012-2013:** It was moved by Perry and seconded by Martin that Grunfeld be elected Chair for the 2012-2013 year. The C.O.D. unanimously elected Grunfeld to Chair the Commission. It was moved by Perry and seconded by Martin that Wells/Wells be elected clerk for the ensuing year. The C.O.D. unanimously elected Wells/Wells to Clerk for the Commission for the coming year.

## VARIOUS ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- 1.) C.O.D. Summer Picnic plans continued –Making Connections with Sheffield citizens - a time to meet the Commission: various outdoor games could be set up, other disability activities ie. learning to sign a song, having Braille cards for everybody to learn how to use; everybody would be asked to bring their own brown bag picnic and eating-set up; Martin will see if Kathy Staropoli, who is part of a local music group, would be willing to donate a little of their music for this event, and Wells will do flyers. Martin was asked to contact Mike Ovitt (Town Event Scheduler) to get an open July Saturday afternoon (14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, or 28<sup>th</sup>) on the Town Calendar. Picnic to start at 3:30PM.
- 2.) Grunfeld reported that she met with Superintendent Michael Singleton regarding our idea for another collaborative venture with the Mt. Everett Regional School. Singleton has given us the go ahead to continue planning

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- 2.) Continued ... this collaborative Spring of 2013 event – ‘Summer Activities for Kids that include Kids with Disabilities.’ We now have received both the Town and the school approval to continue our Spring 2013 event.
- 3.) Grunfeld reported that the School can hand out flyers and the person to contact regarding doing so would be Linda Higgins ... 229-8778 Ext. 304, or E-Mail: lhiggins@sbrsd.org
- 4.) Grunfeld reported that LaBombard/Select Board approved our recommendation to have an accessible portable toilet placed in the Sheffield Town Park. She told the Commission that she and Mike Ovitt had done a walk around for placement of the accessible toilet, along with evaluating how to make the dugouts more accessible and necessary changes for Pavilion accessibility.
- 5.) Discussion followed regarding the need for an automatic door opener for the Town Hall (\$1700+/- estimated cost) and the blinking light for crossing Route 7 (\$60,000+/- estimated cost) Grunfeld was asked by the Commission to write an E-Mail to Labombard/Select Board to ask how the Commission might facilitate, along with the Town, to accomplish getting an automatic door opener for the Town Hall.
- 6.) October Speaker Series – “Help and Aids for the Hearing Impaired” discussion continued regarding the C.O.D. Speaker Series for the October Luncheon (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, October 18, 2012). Martin reported that she had spoken to John-Arthur Miller and that he had, with pleasure, put our Speaker Series’ presentation on the Senior Center Calendar for October. Wells volunteered to design flyers. We still need to work up a resource list for venues which help with hearing impairment issues and needs.
- 7.) Discussion followed as to what should be included in the next C.O.D. submission to the *Sheffield Times*, as well as, thoughts for the September issue.
- 8.) Wells reported on suggested updates for the Town of Sheffield C.O.D. website link. Grunfeld was asked to write Commission update recommendations for the C.O.D. front page link to LaBombard/Goewey.
- 9.) Grunfeld shared with the Commission that she will not be present for the June 15 meeting. The Commission will definitely miss her guidance, but will meet as scheduled.

The August C.O.D. meeting date was discussed. Due to many conflicts in August for many of the C.O.D. members, it was moved by Wells, and seconded by Martin that the Commission change its scheduled August 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, August 17 meeting to the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, August 24. This motion was unanimously so approved and Grunfeld was asked to notify the Town and reschedule the Library meeting room date.

- 10.) Lori-Beth reported on her findings regarding her research regarding Commissions on Disabilities with an on-line presence. She reported she found five, of which two are in MA.
- 11.) Grunfeld reported that she and Mullen had attended John Robison's "Look Me in the Eye" talk and were extremely impressed with his presentation regarding living with aspergers. Enough so, that Grunfeld actually looked into the cost of having him speak in Sheffield. (\$7500) or perhaps asking Michael Wilcox another impressive asperger's speaker.
- 12.) Grunfeld noted that the Town Annual Report showed just how much this Commission has actually accomplished in the past year. She commended the Commission on these accomplishments.
- 13.) Grunfeld reported that she had heard back from Nancy Hahn as to why the Sheffield Library inside automatic door opener was not working on the day of our April meeting. Evidentially, a library staff member had inadvertently forgotten to switch on the door opener switch. Grunfeld felt that the Commission should respond to Hahn with how important the activation of this switch is to the Library Operating Manual and that it should be, also, stressed with Library staff the importance of this switch to the daily routine of opening the Library.
- 14.) Grunfeld suggested that the next time a Commission member goes to Target, that they should take photos of the Target Family Bathroom. All Target bathrooms seem to be excellent examples of disability accessible bathrooms.

**THE SHEFFIELD C.O.D. WISHES TO EXPRESS THEIR GRATITUDE TO DON PERRY:**

Perry has given so much to this Commission from its very inception. He will not be seeking a three year reappointment to the Commission due to family needs. On the other hand, he hopes to help the Commission in its future efforts from behind the scenes. He has been such an asset and will be sorely missed and we owe him much for where we are today.

**THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE:** Friday, June 15, 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

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

Grunfeld adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells] Clerk