



*Town of Sheffield*  
*Commission on Disabilities*  
*Town Hall – 21 Depot Square*

*P.O. Box 325*

*Sheffield Massachusetts 01257*



**Friday, February 21, 2014**

**Sheffield Senior Center**

**2:35 PM**

Commission Members Present: Laura Grunfeld, Chair  
Dave Wells, Clerk  
Lakhan Verma

Absent: Gail Mullen

Visitors: Nan Wells

Grunfeld called the C.O.D. meeting open at 2:35 PM

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 1.) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** It was moved by Grunfeld that the minutes of the Commission on Disabilities for January 17, 2014 be approved. The Grunfeld motion was seconded by Verma, and with no further discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.
- 2.) **GRUNFELD 2013 ANNUAL REPORT:** Grunfeld shared with the Commission the 2013 Annual Report she had submitted. It was shared for information only. She will E-Mail a copy of the 2013 C.O.D. Annual Report to all members.
- 3.) **ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE:** Grunfeld spoke to the Town Administrator regarding whether there was money available for the Town to purchase an assistive listening system. Labombard will determine if there are funds in the budget this fiscal year or if the expense will be included in the budget to be put forth at the May town meeting.
- 4.) **C.O.D. ON-LINE PRESENCE:** Due to many items on the Agenda for this meeting, it was moved by Wells and seconded by Verma that this item, On-Line Presence, would be rescheduled at a later a date when the whole C.O.D. could present this request, as a team, to the Sheffield Select Board. With no further discussion, the Wells motion was unanimously approved as moved.

- 5.) **RECOMMENDATION FOR LARGE PRINT NOTICE TO BE POSTED ON TOWN PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD:** Because of the small size of agendas posted on the Town of Sheffield public notice board, the COD discussed that it would be helpful to post a sign in large print on the notice board stating that the Town Administrator's office is available to provide enlarged copies for people who are not able to read the smaller print. Grunfeld moved that Wells should meet with the Administrator and ask if the Town would post this large print notice. Grunfeld's motion was seconded by Verma, and with no further discussion, was unanimously approved as moved.
- 6.) **SHEFFIELD TIMES C.O.D. SUBMISSION:** Grunfeld thanked Verma for all his research and his article submission to the *Sheffield Times*. Grunfeld volunteered to send a copy of the Verma submission to all C.O.D. members. Grunfeld suggested it would be a good idea to submit the article earlier if possible.
- 7.) **NEXT C.O.D. SHEFFIELD TIMES' ARTICLE & ADVERTISEMENT:** Grunfeld asked Verma if he would be willing to write a continuation of the February submission with information about the "Reverse 911 system" and the 211 system for getting information. She reminded him the next deadline for the *Sheffield Times* was April 15 and that if the article was submitted earlier, there might be a better chance to have the full article included. Verma accepted her request of writing the C.O.D.'s next submission to the *Sheffield Times*. Grunfeld recommended and moved that the C.O.D. use their funds to promote the C.O.D., C.O.D. information, C.O.D. meetings, and open seats on the Commission and accept her 1<sup>st</sup> submission ad design. Wells seconded her motion, and with no further discussion, the Grunfeld motion was unanimously approved.
- 8.) **INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANS AND PLANNING:** Wells moved that we keep this Agenda Item #9 re: Inclusion of people with disabilities in Community Emergency Plans and Planning but hold off until the C.O.D. has more time to research this issue. Grunfeld seconded Wells' motion, and with no further discussion, the Wells' motion was unanimously approved. Grunfeld suggested Verma might ask Chief Munson regarding this issue when he asked the Chief other questions he was addressing with Chief Munson regarding the reverse 911 numbers and the 211 information number he was working on for his *Sheffield Times'* continuation article. Verma was asked to bring his 1<sup>st</sup> draft of this 2<sup>nd</sup> article to the next C.O.D. meeting.
- 9.) **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT:** Wells asked if there was anything more the Sheffield C.O.D. could do to encourage Sheffield residents to fill out Block Grant Questions for residents' needs on their own property if the Grant was approved. After discussion, Wells moved that since this information was still on the Town web site, that the C.O.D. would wait until we heard about whether the conjoined Great Barrington, Sheffield grant had been approved and what finances

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were available to the Town of Sheffield and its citizens. Verma seconded Wells' motion, and with no further discussion, the Wells' motion was unanimously approved.

**10.) RAIL PASSENGER STATION COMMITTEE PLANNING AND DESIGN:**

The COD would like to be informed about and possibly have input into the design of the proposed Rail Station in Sheffield, to ensure that it is accessible to all. It was moved by Wells that Grunfeld would contact the Regional Planning Commission to get more information about the project. Verma seconded Wells' motion and with no further discussion, the Wells' motion was unanimously approved.

Grunfeld BOS.

**11.) COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Mobile Lab Services ...** Grunfeld remarked that this was a great community resource

**Grace Campbell's note regarding a copy of a Book of Romans she has in Braille:** The C.O.D. was pleased that Grace had considered giving her Book to the Commission's library resources. The Commission decided that Grace's book should really be archived with the Perkins School for the Blind archives or another institution they recommended. Wells moved that Grunfeld send a thank you note to Grace thanking her for her thoughtfulness and thinking of the C.O.D. Verma seconded Wells' motion, and with no further discussion, the Wells' motion was approved unanimously.

**Affordable transportation in Sheffield & Ashley Falls:** Wells presented a new transportation option for those in Sheffield and Ashley Falls. Christ Church Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran Church are now offering affordable transportation for those who need help with transportation in these 2 towns. Grunfeld moved that Wells call the Group and let them know how much the Sheffield C.O.D. appreciates their efforts to help with those with transportation needs. Verma seconded Grunfeld's motion, and with no further discussion, the Grunfeld motion was unanimously approved.

**12.) NEW BUSINESS:** The next C.O.D. meeting will be Friday, March 21, 2014 at the Sheffield Senior Center at 2:30 PM unless otherwise notified.

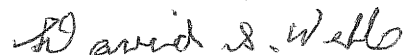
**13.)** The meeting was moved to be closed by Grunfeld and seconded by Wells, and with no further discussion, the meeting was unanimously moved to be closed at 4:20 PM.

Grunfeld adjourned the Sheffield C.O.D. meeting at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells

Sheffield C.O.D. Clerk



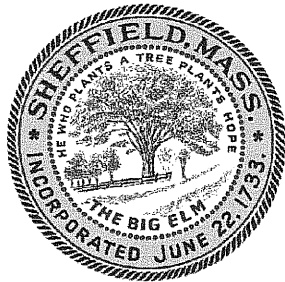
Documents reviewed at this meeting:

Mobil Lab Services Announcement – Luci Z. Leonard

Grace Campbell letter – Grace Campbell

Affordable Transportation in Sheffield and Ashley Falls – Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran Church

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission in conjunction with the Housatonic Railroad Company – Sheila Irwin, Chair



**TOWN of SHEFFIELD**  
**Commission on**  
**Disabilities**  
**AGENDA**



**The Commission will meet Friday, March 21, 2014**

**at the Sheffield Senior Center at 2:30 PM**

**\*PLEASE use side door**

1. Approval of the Friday, February 21, 2014 C.O.D. Minutes
2. Affordable Transportation now available in Sheffield update Discuss and/or take action
3. Verma research findings update Discuss and/or take action
4. On line presence re: a re-scheduled date for presentation to B.O.S. Discuss and/or take action
5. Sheffield C.O.D. link to Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Library collection Discuss and/or take action
6. *Sheffield Times* Lakhan draft of continuation submission Discuss and/or take action
7. *Sheffield Times* next article submission - subject & naming someone to do the next submission Discuss and/or take action
8. Update regarding 1st Grunfeld submission for small ad to *Sheffield Times*
9. Update regarding Inclusion of people with disabilities in "Community Emergency Plans and Planning" Discuss and/or take action
10. Sheffield/Gt. Barrington Community Development Block Grant update, if any Discuss and/or take action
11. Update re: the Rail Passenger Station Committee Planning and design Discuss and/or take action
12. Update on whether the Town Notice Board could include a sign which would offer those who need larger print versions of notices included on the board
13. Chair's agenda items
14. Communications

All agendas are subject to change and items requiring extensive discussion or prior research will be placed on a future agenda so that the issue can receive appropriate attention

\*\*\*A larger print version of this AGENDA will be available, upon request,  
at the Town Administrator's Office