

Town of Sheffield
Commission on Disabilities
Town Hall – 21 Depot Square
P.O. Box 325
Sheffield Massachusetts 01257



Friday, January 17, 2014

Sheffield Senior Center

3:30 PM (a voted on time change for this meeting)

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

Visitors: Martin Mitsoff
Nan Wells
Campbell Ingersoll

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

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1.) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *It was moved by Grunfeld that the minutes of the Commission on Disabilities for December 20, 2013 be approved. The Grunfeld motion was seconded by Lakhan, and with no further discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.*
- 2.) **FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Grunfeld reported that she had submitted the C.O.D. request for \$200 for inclusion on the May Town Warrant for the fiscal year 2015. This budget line would help the C.O.D. promote its educational events and other activities.
- 3.) **ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE:** Grunfeld reported that she had now submitted 3 quotes for an FM industry standard assistive listening system to the Town Administrator.
- 4.) **C.O.D. ON-LINE PRESENCE:** Grunfeld reported that she had spoken to Karen Lindquist, head of the Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Library, regarding letting the

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C.O.D. have a link to the library's disability materials. Grunfeld reported that Karen was happy to allow the C.O.D. to have this library link-up.

- 5.) **SHEFFIELD TIMES C.O.D. SUBMISSION:** Lakhan volunteered, with the help of Mitsoff, to write the next C.O.D. article for the *Sheffield Times*. After discussion, it was decided this article would focus on re-informing Sheffield citizens of the 911 Emergency signage which should be visible from all directions on the roadway, the importance of informing/updating the 911 Police and Emergency Personnel data base of household disability information, as well as establishing a medical data base with Fairview and BMC Hospitals. Deadline for this article submission is February 15. Grunfeld suggested it would be a good idea to submit the article earlier if possible.
- 6.) **BLOCK GRANT UPDATE:** Mitsoff updated the Commission on the status of the Community Development Block Grant application that was in the process of being submitted by Sheffield and Great Barrington, conjointly. If this grant gets approved by the State, it would provide up to a 1 Million in funds to be used for qualifying low- to moderate income homeowners for basic code-related home repairs and for design assistance in making ADA accessibility-related improvements to selected public buildings, including Sheffield's Town Hall.
- 7.) **C.O.D. AD FOR THE SHEFFIELD TIMES:** Grunfeld suggested that she would like to research putting in a small ad in a number of *Sheffield Times'* issues which would promote the Sheffield Commission and its activities. Discussion followed after which *Grunfeld moved that she would research doing the above with the Sheffield Times' ad editor and report her findings back to the Commission at our next meeting in February. Grunfeld's motion was seconded by Lakhan, and with no further discussion, the Grunfeld motion was unanimously approved.*
- 8.) **ANNUAL REPORT DUE:** As Chair, Grunfeld, with the help of Mullen, will write the Commissions' 2013 Annual Report. This report is due by the end of January at the Town Administrator's Office.
- 9.) **MITSOFF'S CANDIDACY FOR C.O.D. IS ON HOLD:** Mitsoff, who is now running as a replacement candidate for the Board of Selectmen, shared with the Commission that pending the outcome of the Sheffield Special Town Election February 24 he might not be able to consider joining the Commission.
- 10.) **CAMPBELL INGERSOLL SHARED OBSERVATIONS WITH THE COMMISSION:** Our youngest visitor today, shared observations he had come to realize in how hard it is for those with disabilities to get around ... what refreshing

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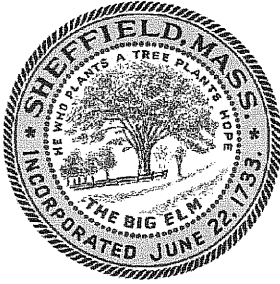
insights from one so young. Ingersoll was heartily thanked for his observations and his willingness to share them with this Commission.

- 12.) ITEM PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:** Making known and addressing considerations for those with disabilities in large scale Town emergencies ... the necessity of including within the Sheffield Community Action Emergency Plans, plans/actions for addressing those with disabilities.
- 13.) NEW BUSINESS:** The next C.O.D. meeting will be Friday, February 21, 2014 at the Sheffield Senior Center at 2:30 PM unless otherwise notified.
- 14.) The meeting was moved to be closed by Mullen and seconded by Wells, and with no further discussion, the meeting was unanimously moved to be closed at 5:15.**

Grunfeld adjourned the Sheffield C.O.D. meeting at 5:15 PM.



Respectfully submitted:
Dave Wells
Sheffield C.O.D. Clerk



TOWN of SHEFFIELD
Commission on
Disabilities
AGENDA



The Commission will meet Friday, February 21, 2014

at the Sheffield Senior Center at 2:30 PM

***PLEASE use side door**

- 1. Approval of the Friday, January 17, 2014 C.O.D. Minutes**
- 2. Sharing of the Grunfeld 2013 Annual Report**
- 3. Assistive listening device feedback, if any, from B.O.S. or the Town Administrator**
- 4. On line presence re: a re-scheduled date for presentation to B.O.S.**
- 5. Bring members up to date with information gleaned from the Open Meeting Law Training - Discussion to follow**
- 6. *Sheffield Times* Lakhan submission**
- 7. *Sheffield Times* next artical submission - subject & naming someone to do the next submission**
- 8. Discuss and/or take action re: *Sheffield Times'* Ads**
- 9. Discuss and/or take action re: Inclusion of people with disabilities in Community Emergency Plans and Planning**
- 10. Sheffield/Gt. Barrington Community Development Block Grant update**
- 11. Discuss and/or take action re: the Rail Passenger Station Committee Planning and design**
- 12. Chair's agenda items**
- 13. 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**