

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
Thursday, February 4, 2010
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
4:00 PM**

Commission Members Present: Denise Rueger (Chair)
Laura Grunfeld
Noah Parsons
Don Perry
Dave Wells (with the assistance of Nan Wells)

Town Administrator: Joe Kellogg

Visitors: Nancy Perry

Chair Rueger called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

NO APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

As no formal minutes were taken, there were none to approve. Minutes will be written up from all of our notes and approved at a later date.

DISCUSSED A CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR VOTING IF THE ELEVATOR GETS STUCK:

DISCUSSION OF HOW TO WORK WITH THE STATE COMPUTER ACCESS WIRED TO A LAP TOP FOR VOTING DAY ISSUES IF WE WERE TO MOVE THE LOCATION FOR VOTING FROM THE SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL TO THE SHEFFIELD AMERICAN LEGION HALL:

DISCUSSION ENSUED OF HOW WE COULD RAISE MONEY TO FINANCE CURB CUTS, SIDEWALKS, ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES FOR THE SHEFFIELD BUSINESS RTE 7 CORRIDOR:

1. Kiwanis
2. Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce
3. Community Around the Block
4. Call Kerry, Brown, and Pignatelli
5. Internet Search for possible GRANTS we could access

PARSONS AND PERRY PRESENTED PHOTOS AND ACCOMPANYING SHEFFIELD BUSINESS AREA RTE. 7 CORRIDOR MAP REGARDING THEIR FINDINGS ON THE 5 AREAS IN NEED OF CURB CUTS, SIDEWALKS, AND ACCESSIBILITY: The discussion zeroed in on 5 locations that were NOT disability friendly/or useable:

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- 1.) Miller Ave
- 2.) Antique Shop
- 3.) Wheeler and Taylor to town center

- 4.) Library
- 5.) Berkshire School Road cross-over

An excellent presentation was made by Parson's and Perry on behalf of the Commission to Administrator Kellogg which included the large 8 x 10 mounted photos of the areas under discussion. The Commission asked Administrator Kellogg what our next step might be in moving this issue and concern forward.

Kellogg suggested that the next step might be to work up a presentation to give to the Sheffield Town Board of Selectmen. When we were ready to make our presentation that we then needed to ask them to put us on their agenda.

DISCUSSION FOLLOWED ON HOW WE MIGHT GO THE NEXT STEP TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that we continue to move this huge undertaking along and that we should set a date with the Sheffield Board of Selectmen to demonstrate why this issue is so in need of being addressed.

OTHER ISSUES, AS OUTLINED IN OUR JANUARY 27th MEETING, WERE SHARED WITH ADMINISTRATOR KELLOGG (BUILDING INSPECTOR CARMODY WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND):

- 1.) Access issues with Town Hall ... roadway
Administrator Kellogg said no one was going to issue a traffic violation for NOT following the directional signs if one is dropping off or picking up a disabled person in front of the Town Hall
- 2.) Help button for front door assistance needed
- 3.) Power assist button for Sheffield Town Hall front door

- 4.) Exit sign for the 2nd floor back stairs
Administrator Kellogg says the Town Hall Exit Signs meet code and they only need one for the upstairs main use stairwell
- 5.) Small bench or solid seat/chair for entryway waiting
- 6.) Voting moved back to the Sheffield American Legion
- 7.) Evacuation chair for the Town Hall

- 8.) **Administrator Kellogg said he would be interested in seeing information regarding evacuation chairs. Grunfeld said she would E-Mail various pertinent web site information to him and us as well.**
- 9.) Do we have a liaison person for this committee?
Administrator Kellogg told us that Assistant Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard is our liaison person
- 10.) Do we need to write, in a formal document, our suggestions, concerns, to get feedback to the concerns we make known?
- 11.) **No, what we need to do is pass them along to Assistant Town Administrator, Rhonda LaBombard and she will direct them down the line further**
- 12.) This Commission still needs to be added to the Town of Sheffield's Web site along with our Commission approved Logo.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JOE KELLOGG WAS ASKED IF HE WOULD SHARE THE LATEST SENIOR CENTER PLANS WITH US: His response was sometime down the road he would get the plans to us.

RUEGER SUGGESTED WE MIGHT GO TO THE BREAKING BREAD NIGHT (serving dinner between 5 and 6) AND THAT WE MIGHT MAKE A COULD CONNECTION BY STAY TO HELP THEM CLEAN UP AFTER DINNER: We thought maybe we would attend February 18. No specific determination was made to follow through on this suggestion.

REMINDER THAT OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 23, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THIS MEETING SHOULD BE:

1. Consider attending the 2nd Tuesday in March Kiwanis Meeting
OUT REACH
2. TOWN OF SHEFFIELD WEB SITE/COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES LINK
 - a. Research evacuation chair and provide links on our Commission on Disabilities Link and add other similar helpful information links on our web site
 - b. Posting of our Commission Minutes on the Link
 - c. Get the Commission approved Logo on Commission Link on right hand side heading just as we have set up our approved letter head
3. CONTINUE TO TIGHTEN UP MARCH 18th's PRESENTATION, THE DISABILITIES' TRAINING SEMINAR

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The Meeting was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to be adjourned.

Chair Rueger adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells]
Clerk