

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
Thursday, April 29, 2010
TOWN HALL DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
4:00 PM**

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

Absent: Judy Steindler
Hyatt(newly appointed Commission member)

Town Administrator: Joe Kellogg

Visitors: Members of the Community

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Commission on Disabilities for April 15, 2010 were moved to be approved by Grunfeld, seconded by Perry, and unanimously approved as written.

Copies of the Minutes to be E-Mailed to Jack Pollitt.

Grunfeld was approved last meeting (April 15, 2010) to clarify with Town Assistant Rhonda Labombard on how the terms of appointment were done for the newly formed Commission on Disabilities. She opened the Commissions' business today with inviting Town Administrator Joe Kellogg to join the Commission meeting, briefly, to personally clarify the Commission members' terms of office. One discrepancy turned up and that was that Parsons held a letter stating he had been appointed to a 3 year term of office but Town Administrator Kellogg believed that Parsons' letter was in error and that Parsons had really been appointed for only a 2 year term along with Wells and Maryann Hyatt's one year term... all 3 to expire June 30, 2011.

ORIGINALLY THIS MEETING OF APRIL 29TH WAS SCHEDULED FOR A WALK BY COMMISSION MEMBERS UP ONE SIDE AND BACK THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RTE. 7 SHEFFIELD BUSINESS CORRIDOR: The original meeting agenda was changed to meeting as a regular meeting in the Sheffield Town Hall downstairs meeting room. This change came about after the April 15th meeting because Perry had a chance to speak with Mark Tzubryt

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at the Mass DOT. Mark told Perry that a letter from this Commission was needed addressed to Peter Niles, Director of District 1 MA DOT, Lenox, MA in order for the MA DOT to start looking into rectifying inaccessible crossings and issues on Rte 7 Sheffield Business Corridor. Therefore, ALL Commission members were notified of the change that we would **NOT** do the walk now and that we would, instead, hold our April 29th meeting, as usual, in the Sheffield Town Hall downstairs meeting room. Wells notified Assistant Town Administrator LaBombard. LaBombard posted for us the change in the Commissions' agenda for the April 29th Meeting on the Town Hall Bulletin Board.

THIS WHOLE MEETING WAS USED TO COME UP WITH A FINAL LETTER TO BE SENT TO THE MASS DOT: Perry moved that this whole meeting be used to finalize a Commission approved letter which would be sent to Peter Niles, District 1 Highway Director for the MA Department of Transportation in Lenox, MA, Grunfeld seconded his motion, and it was unanimously so approved.

PARSONS PRESENTED THE COMMISSION WITH A POSSIBLE LETTER TO SEND TO THE MA DOT: Parsons was commended by the Commission for the time and commitment his 1st letter draft required. Parsons' letter provided a solid foundation to get the discussion going today in the right direction. The rest of the meeting was spent in considering various wordings and the ramifications of each. It was a hard process but a letter to send was the outcome. It was moved by Perry and seconded by Grunfeld that Parsons' revised letter to the MA DOT would next go to Town Administrator Kellogg for his stamp of approval before sending; this motion was unanimously approved.

A BRIEF DISCUSSION FOLLOWED AFTER WELLS PRESENTED THE HOPE THAT THE TOWN OF SHEFFIELD WOULD MAKE 4 HARD COPIES OF OUR MINUTES: The Commission currently must make 4 hard copies of the Minutes for each meeting. (Perry, Steindler, Town Clerk Felecie Joyce, Commission Clerk for Commission Records, and maybe Hyatt) need copies. It was moved by Grunfeld, seconded by Parsons, and unanimously approved that Wells would ask Assistant Town Administrator LaBombard, that if Wells E-Mailed the Final Draft of the approved Commissions' Minutes, that LaBombard would print the needed copies for us.

QUICK, QUICK UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS WELLS WAS MAKING ON GETTING THE COMMISSION SPACE ON 2011 SENIOR CALENDAR WITH ASSIST NUMBERS AND CONTACT PEOPLE WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE LISTED ON THE NEXT CALENDAR. REALLY POSITIVE PROGRESS IN THIS AREA IS BEING MADE.

ANOTHER QUICK UPDATE WAS SHARED BY WELLS REGARDING FINDING A SOURCE TO GET A SMALL ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE. STEINDLER HAS SAID SHE WILL WORK WITH US ON TRACKING DOWN A SOURCE FOR OBTAINING ONE.

MUCH OF THIS MEETING WAS HELD WITH LIGHTS OUT AS THE SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL HAD NO POWER BECAUSE OF A DOWNED TREE ON RTE. 7.

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

Rueger adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells]
Clerk