

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
Friday, May 20, 2011
BUSHNELL-SAGE LIBRARY Downstairs
3:30 PM**

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

Absent: Don Perry

Visitors: Sally Cook, Dawn Valinaggi (Executive Director, SBETC),
Fran Premerlani (SBETC Chair), and Jana Hunkler
Brule (Project Manager of Berkshire Rides/CTAA)

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

THE COMMISSION'S MEETING OPENED WITH THE SPEAKER SERIES: Dawn Valinaggi, Executive Director of the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Services (SBETC) brought handouts and made a presentation. She explained that their transportation services are available to elders and to people with disabilities in Sheffield and surrounding towns of any age for a very reasonable suggested donation, though any amount is accepted. The second presenter, Jana Hunkler Brule of Berkshire Rides and Berkshire Mobility Team/Creating a County Without Barriers, brought a PowerPoint presentation and handouts. Not only did she share information about all available transportation options in Berkshire County but she encouraged agencies and services to pool their resources and work together for the common good so that the services would be more affordable for all.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Commission on Disabilities for April 2, 2011 were moved to be approved by Martin, seconded by Wells, and unanimously approved as written.

REPORT ON C.O.D. NEW MEMBERS' RECRUITMENT PROGRESS: The Commission feels that holding the Speaker Series will provide publicity for the Commission, will bring in audience, and will lead to new Commission members.

WELLS WAS ASKED TO CHAIR THE SPEAKER SERIES AND TO DESIGN THE FLYERS FOR EACH: Wells accepted.

MARTIN WAS ASKED TO CHAIR MEDIA RELEASES: Martin accepted.

GRUNFELD ENCOURAGED MEMBERS TO CONSIDER REGISTERING FOR THE CAM TRAINING: Grunfeld said she had gone through the CAM training (Access Training at AdLib, Inc. is June 14th and 15th.) a couple of times and it rarely is offered so close to home. It is a two day session and well worth attending.

MARTIN TOOK THE DVD COPY WE HAVE OF "UNDER OUR SKIN": a powerful video regarding Lyme disease.

WELLS HAS ASKED BERKSHIRE SOUTH TO BE A PRESENTER AT THE COMMISSION JUNE 17 MEETING: The June meeting program will emphasize sports and recreation for those with disabilities.

OUR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE June 17, 2011 at 3:30 PM

AGENDA:

1. Speaker Program ... "Adaptive Recreation for those with Disabilities"
2. Communications
3. Feedback regarding 1st C.O.D. Speaker Series "Transportation Services for Sheffield"
4. Speaker Series, in general, evaluation
5. New member recruiting effort
6. Other business

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

Grunfeld adjourned the meeting at 5:06 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells] Clerk