

Friday, August 19, 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
Don Perry

Visitors: UCP Presenter, Dawn Matthews
Christine

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

THE MEETING OPENED WITH THIS MONTH'S C.O.D. SPEAKER SERIES, "ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR HELP WITH SENSORY DEFICITS:" Dawn Matthews, representing United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), was this month's C.O.D. Speaker and opened the meeting with an enlightening, informative hands-on presentation.

Light refreshments were served.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Commission on Disabilities for July 15, 2011 were moved to be approved by Martin, seconded by Perry, and unanimously approved as written.

DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION OF THE C.O.D. SPEAKER SERIES CONTINUED: much discussion followed regarding the C.O.D. Speaker Series. Martin suggested the C.O.D. Speaker Series be combined with the Senior Center's 3rd Thursday of the month luncheon. Combining the programs could be of mutual benefit to both organizations. Perry moved that we cut back the Speaker Series during the winter to every 3rd month with our last Speaker Series of this year to be our October one, since it had already been advertised, and then the next one would be scheduled as a combined C.O.D. / Senior Center Speaker for the 3rd Thursday of January Senior Center Luncheon if John-Arthur was receptive to our combining our Speaker Series with his 3rd Thursday of the month luncheons. Wells seconded Perry's motion and after more discussion it was unanimously so approved. Martin was asked to discuss the proposal with John-Arthur Miller.

C.O.D. CURRENT MEETING DATE AND TIME REVISITED: discussion followed regarding whether the day and the meeting times of the C.O.D. was hindering Sheffield residents from joining the Commission or attending the Speaker Series.

VIDEO TAPING THE SPEAKER SERIES : Grunfeld reported that CTSB TV would not be able to tape the speaker series.

ACCESSIBILITY OF PARKS: Grunfeld reported that she had been asked by Jenny Russell, who is working on the Town of Sheffield Open Space plan, to evaluate the accessibility of Bridge Park and the Town Park.

PROGRESS WITH THE SHEFFIELD MAIN STREET CROSSWALKS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MA DOT MUST STAY ON A FRONT BURNER FOR THIS COMMISSION: Perry will follow up with the MA DOT.

PUBLIC MEETING ACCOMMODATIONS: discussion followed about other ways to let citizens of Sheffield know that assistive devices for use at Town Meetings and other Town Events could be made available to them by notifying the Town ADA Coordinator or the Sheffield C.O.D. with a two week advance notice window. *Perry moved that Grunfeld share with Assistant Town Administrator LaBombard that the Sheffield C.O.D. would like the Town Moderator and other officials at Sheffield Town gatherings to announce at each gathering that assistive devices could be available for future events. Wells seconded Perry's motion and it was unanimously so approved.*

NEXT SPEAKER SERIES FOR SEPTEMBER WILL FEATURE VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE (VIM) and THE COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM (CHP) of BERKSHIRE COUNTY: The program will emphasize low cost health care for those in South County.

A REMINDER TO ALL THAT THE C.O.D. MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER WILL BE HELD IN THE SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM:

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE: September 16, 2011 at 3:30 PM at the Sheffield Town Hall, downstairs meeting room.

AGENDA:

1. Speaker Program ... "**Low Cost Health Care Options in South County**"
Presenters will be Brian Ayars of Community Health Program (CHP) and a speaker from Volunteers in Medicine (VIP) not yet designated
2. Reports
3. Speaker Series continuing evaluation
4. Other business

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

Grunfeld adjourned the meeting at 6:05 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells] Clerk