

TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

October 5, 2012

Sheffield Senior Center
3:30 PM

Commission Members Present: Laura Grunfeld Chair
Dave Wells [with the assistance of Nan Wells] (clerk)
Lori-Beth Amato [attended a portion of this meeting]
Claudia Martin
Gail Mullen

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Commission on Disabilities for Friday, September 28, 2012 were moved to be approved, as amended, by Mullen, seconded by Grunfeld, and unanimously approved as amended.

AGENDA ITEM #2 "DISCUSSION OF C.O.D. MEETING LOCATIONS:" It was suggested by Grunfeld that due to Amato not yet being present at the onset of the meeting and the possibility of needing a large block of time for discussion of this agenda item that it be taken up last, Martin moved that Agenda Item #2 be moved to the last item for discussion, her motion was seconded by Wells and unanimously approved.

VARIOUS ISSUES:

- 1.) **NOVEMBER VOTING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THOSE WITH MOBILITY ISSUES:** Wells and Mullen shared information from the Sheffield Town Clerk regarding mobility issue accommodations that will be available for November voting in the Sheffield Senior Center. Discussion followed. Martin moved that the Commission ask the Town Clerk if C.O.D. members could help in any way either inside the Center or with parking or in some other area of need with those with disability needs on voting day. Wells seconded Martin's motion, and it was unanimously approved. Wells was asked to touch base with the Sheffield Town Clerk with this offer.

- 2.) **MARTIN TO BE C.O. D. PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Martin volunteered to be the C.O.D. parliamentarian.

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- 3.) **OPEN MEETING LAW - WHAT DOES IT MEAN AT A PRACTICAL LEVEL?:** Much discussion ensued regarding possible understandings /interpretation of the Open Meeting Law. In other words, what does it mean to the Sheffield C.O.D. and how does it effect day-to-day Commission needs? *It was moved by Mullen that the Sheffield C.O.D. ask LaBombard, Town Administrator, to come to one of the C.O.D. meetings to explain the Open Meeting Law and how to apply it in practice, to the day-to-day operation of a small town commission. Mullen's motion was seconded by Wells, and was unanimously approved.*
- 4.) **LUNCHEON DONATION TO THE FRIENDS OF THE SHEFFIELD SENIOR CENTER:** Discussion followed. *Wells moved that members of the C.O.D., at their discretion, make an individual donation to the Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center to cover the C.O.D. speakers' lunches and as a token of the C.O.D. appreciation for the accompanying October 18 Luncheon. Grunfeld seconded the Wells' motion, and with no following discussion, it was unanimously approved.*
- 5.) **OCTOBER PRESS RELEASES:** Discussion followed regarding how much time Martin was spending writing, editing, and getting out all Press Releases. *It was moved by Wells that Grunfeld will get the Martin written October Press Releases out. Mullen seconded this motion and with no following discussion, it was unanimously approved as moved.*
- 6.) **FUTURE PRESS RELEASES:** Martin requested that another C.O.D. member take over distributing to all venues Martin written C.O.D. press releases, with the exception of the *Sheffield Times*. Discussion followed. *It was moved by Grunfeld that Martin would write the press releases and Amato would distribute the releases to all venues with the exception of the Sheffield Times. Wells seconded Grunfeld's motion, and with no further discussion it was unanimously approved as moved.*
- 7.) **C.O.D. MEETING LOCATIONS:** Much discussion followed. The C.O.D. gratefully accepted the invitation and availability to meet in the Sheffield Senior Center. It was *moved by Wells that Mullen and Martin would draft a letter for October 16 review and editing considerations. Grunfeld seconded Wells' motion, and it was unanimously approved with no further discussion.*

REPORTS:

- 1.) **OCTOBER 18 SPEAKER SERIES' FLYERS:** Grunfeld and Mullen reported that all October 18 Speaker Series' flyers have been extensively distributed.
- 2.) **TOWN E-MAIL BLAST:** Grunfeld reported the October 18 Speaker Series will be on the Town E-Mail Blast.
- 3.) **SETTING A DATE FOR SPRING 2013 COLLABORATIVE EVENT:**
This item was not addressed and will be put on the October 19, 2012 C.O.D. Agenda.
- 4.) **SHEFFIELD C.O.D. THANK YOU NOTES:** Wells reported that C.O.D. thank you notes were mailed to Craig Cheney and Cindy Schuyler.
- 5.) **MULLEN REPORTED ON ATTENDING AN AUTISM ADVOCACY SEMINAR:** This seminar was so outstanding that it should be considered as a possible C.O.D. Speaker Series presentation. It might be possible to have it in conjunction with Mt. Everett Regional School.
- 6.) **FREE LEGAL CLINIC IN THE BERKSHIRES:** Martin reported that there is now a non profit legal clinic made up of 24 lawyers who have volunteered to do pro bono work, based on ability to pay, which is available for Berkshire residents.
- 7.) **ANOTHER POSSIBLE SPEAKER SERIES SEMINAR TOPIC:** Grunfeld suggested that the C.O.D. should consider doing a C.O.D. Speaker Series presentation that would focus on "Children Who Struggle With Reading.
- 8.) **C.O.D. CALENDAR:** All to be held at the Sheffield Senior Center on the 3rd Friday of each month at 3:30 PM.
November 16, 2012
December 14, 2012
January 18, 2012

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE C.O.D. WILL BE: Friday, October 19, 2012 at 3:30 PM at the Sheffield Senior Center.

****PLEASE NOTE:** That Sheffield Commission on Disabilities now meets in the Sheffield Senior Center.

C.O.D. AGENDA for Friday, October 19, 2012 meeting:

1. Evaluation of the October 18 C.O.D. Speaker Series at the Senior Center
2. Continue discussion C.O.D. meeting locations
3. Discuss Spring of 2013 collaborative event dates and time
4. July 2013 ADA Picnic Celebration to be sponsored by the Sheffield C.O.D.
5. *Sheffield Times* C.O.D. article
6. Set up a time for LaBombard to meet with us regarding Open Meeting Law and its practical application
7. Start planning our next Sheffield C.O.D. Speaker Series
8. Reports
9. Other business as necessary

Wells moved to adjourn this meeting, seconded by Martin, and was unanimously approved for adjournment.

Grunfeld adjourned the meeting at 5:10 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells] Clerk