

Town of Sheffield
Commission on Disabilities
Town Hall – 21 Depot Square
P.O. Box 325
Sheffield Massachusetts 01257



Friday, August 15, 2014

Sheffield Senior Center

2:30 PM

Commission Members Present: Laura Grunfeld, Chair
Dave Wells, Clerk
Lakhan Verma

Absent: Gail Mullen

Visitors: Nan Wells

Grunfeld called the C.O.D. meeting open at 2:30 PM

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1.) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *It was moved by Grunfeld that the minutes of the Sheffield Commission on Disabilities for July 18, 2014 be approved. The Grunfeld motion was seconded by Verma, and with no further discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.*
- 2.) **SHEFFIELD TIMES ARTICLE SUBMISSION:** Grunfeld read her "Visitability" article draft which she had written for the *Sheffield Times* August 15 deadline. The article focused on the advantages to Sheffield residents who might be considering new home construction or a remodeling project to consider making their home "Visitable." The article also asked Sheffield residents for feedback regarding possible interest in knowing more about Service animals or had other ideas for future C.O.D. seminars. *Wells moved the Grunfeld draft submission of the article be approved, as read and discussed, and E-Mailed on to Andrea Scott of the Sheffield Times. Verma seconded the Wells' motion, and with no further discussion, the Wells' motion was unanimously approved. See the attached copy of the Grunfeld submission to the Sheffield Times.*
- 3.) **SMALL C.O.D. SHEFFIELD TIMES' AD:** *With no discussion, Wells moved that the small C.O.D. Sheffield Times' ad be left, as designed, for the next issue of the Sheffield Times. Grunfeld seconded the Wells' motion, and with no discussion, the Well's motion was unanimously approved as presented.*

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- 4.) **NEXT C.O.D. SUBMISSION TO THE SHEFFIELD TIMES** [October 15 deadline]: After discussion, by consensus of the members, it was hoped that the previously discussed Mullen article which would focus on encouraging new members and visitors to join our very active and important Commission mission, would be our next submission to the *Sheffield Times*.
- 5.) **CONTINUE PLANNING FOR THE SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION FAIR 2014:**
- a. Grunfeld and Mullen would arrive early Saturday, September 6 to layout parking and start dealing with early vendors
 - b. Mullen would bring foldout table for C.O.D. table display
 - c. By consensus, all members would bring \$20+/- cash to help defray expenses of getting 2 handlers - Pat Sheely and Bron Klopfenstein and 2 service animals - Shadow and BeeBee from Pittsfield to the Sheffield Park and back to Pittsfield, defray their lunch and drink expenses, along with the lunch and drink expenses of the driver if the driver stayed and waited for them. If there were any monies remaining it would be presented to the handlers as a very, very small honorarium from us with many thanks and much appreciation to them.
 - d. Wells and Wells: call or write organizations for literature and freebies; bring all literature and freebies for C.O.D. table; make all arrangements for getting the 2 handlers and 2 service animals to the Sheffield in Celebration Fair; make name tags for C.O.D. members, handlers, and service animals; signage, framed photos, and C.O.D. banner; copy all special interest handouts i.e. "Visitability," Pat Sheely accolade and national UCP Award recognition published in the *Berkshire Eagle* May 2003 for handouts and one copy photo framed, and kid friendly disability paper activities; signup sheets for interest in a Service Animal C.O.D. Seminar or an interest in another C.O.D. Seminar presentation; dog treats and water dishes; secure an outside, back corner spot in the pavilion with Trudy Weaver Miller, if possible; come early to fair to get everything set up and in place, and work the C.O.D. table.
 - e. Verma: Since recovering from just days ago major surgery, will join Wells and Wells at the C.O.D. table, if able.
- 6.) **FALL C.O.D. "VISITABILITY" SEMINAR:** Was put on hold until after the Grunfeld C.O.D. Sheffield Times' article had time for responses or from the sign-up sheet put out at the Sheffield in Celebration Fair.
- 7.) **CHAIR'S AGENDA ITEMS:**
- a. Grunfeld reported that she planned to attend the Adlib Seminar entitled "Community Access Monitor Training" to be held September 10-11 in Pittsfield and E-Mailed in her registration form at this time.
- 8.) **NEW BUSINESS:**
- a. Grunfeld went on line and then called BRTA to research transportation options for getting 2 handlers and 2 service animals to the Sheffield in Celebration Fair. Her call led the C.O.D. to believe that getting

NEW BUSINESS continued

handlers to the Celebration could be a complicated process, difficult, tiring for the handlers, and possibly very expensive. Grunfeld asked Wells to take over figuring out transportation issues for getting our guests to the Sheffield in Celebration Fair and trying to pull it off for somewhere around \$20, more or less, donation from each of the C.O.D. members.

- b.** Wells gave to each member of the C.O.D. a copy of the latest *Sheffield Senior Crier* which published, on the back of their recent issue, the C.O.D. spreadsheet "Transportation Available to Sheffield Residents." The Commission expressed much appreciation for this additional coverage.
- c.** Wells shared that he had been asked "How one could recycle old glasses/glass frames?" With a little research, Wells was happy to report to the citizen and the C.O.D. that the Lyons' Club still takes them and also Dr. David P. Kay, Optometrist in Great Barrington.
- d.** Grunfeld reported that she had heard from Rene Wood that the Great Barrington-Sheffield Block Grant had been approved. The awarded amount was \$803,000 for housing rehab and each of the town's proposed engineering and design projects. For Sheffield it means the design and bid ready work will be done on both the front and back entrance to town hall and 6 Sheffield homes. Wood thanked the C.O.D. and said she appreciated all Grunfeld's work and that of the C.O.D. Grunfeld responded to Wood on behalf of the C.O.D. how exciting this information was and thanked Wood for all her hard work to bring this grant to fruition.
- e.** Wells reported catching up with Denise Rueger, past chair of the C.O.D. recently and let her know we would just love to have her return to the Commission. Denise said she would seriously consider it as perhaps this might be a better time than previously. Grunfeld asked Wells to send Rueger an official C.O.D. note card invitation/welcome.
- f.** Wells reminded the C.O.D., that so far, the Town had only removed the wood boarding at the Town Park pavilion at the entrance paving flange and had not removed the wood boarding anywhere else around it. If the woodboarding serves a purpose and has to remain, maybe it could be painted a neon bright color so it would possibly be more visible. Perhaps the Town Park Commission could put neon colored ribbon/rope about 3 – 4 feet up around the areas of the pavilion that were really not entryways. The consensus of the C.O.D. was that Grunfeld would write a letter to Kevin Joyce and Grace Campbell of the Town Park Commission and cc: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator regarding the danger of leaving the old wood boarding on or leaving it unmarked, or not roping it off. Grunfeld wrote the E-Mail letter.
- g.** The next C.O.D. meeting will be Friday, September 19, 2014 at the Sheffield Senior Center at 2:30 PM unless otherwise notified.

9.) COMMUNICATIONS: none

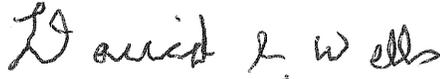
The meeting was moved to be closed by Grunfeld and seconded by Verma, and with no further discussion, the meeting was unanimously moved to be closed at 5:02 P.M.

Grunfeld adjourned the Sheffield C.O.D. meeting at 5:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells

Sheffield C.O.D. Clerk



The following documents were reviewed during the Commission's meeting and have been retained as required by Massachusetts Public Retention Policy:

1. *Sheffield Senior Crier August issue* which included the C.O.D. "Transportation Options for Residents of Sheffield and Ashley Falls" Spreadsheet
2. CAM training in Pittsfield brochure ... September 10-11, 2014 sponsored by Adlib
3. Grunfeld's *Sheffield Times*' "Visitability" article
4. Grunfeld E-Mail to the Sheffield Town Park Commission



TOWN of SHEFFIELD
Commission on
Disabilities
AGENDA



The Commission will meet *Friday, August 15, 2014

at the Sheffield Senior Center at 2:30 PM

***PLEASE use side door**

The following Agenda items are for review and possible action

1. Approval of the August 15, 2014 C.O.D. Minutes
2. Sheffield Times October 15 deadline article -which would encourage new members and visitors to be a part of the Sheffield C.O.D. as well as to seek disability resources they may need from the C.O.D.
3. New submission for small C.O.D. *Sheffield Times'* ad
4. Evaluation of the Sheffield in Celebration 2014 Fair: over-all, all aspects of C.O.D. participation, suggestions for next year etc.
5. Update on interest responses to having a C.O.D. Service Animal Seminar
6. C.O.D. Thank you notes which should be sent and an update regarding previous C.O.D. notecard Wells was asked to send
7. CAM Training Sept. 10-11 in Pittsfield sponsored by Adlib update from Grunfeld
8. Chair's agenda items
9. New Business
10. Communications

All agendas are subject to change and items requiring extensive discussion or prior research will be placed on a future agenda so that the issue can receive appropriate attention

*****A larger print version of this AGENDA will be available, upon request,
at the Town Administrator's Office**