



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



Friday, February 18, 2022
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Commission Members

Present: Laura Grunfeld, Chair
Pam Mercer
Gail Mullen
Absent: Tod MacKenzie
Priscilla Rueger
Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 AM and was chaired by Grunfeld. The meeting is being recorded.

1.) Approval of January 28 minutes: By consensus, the January 28 minutes were approved.

2.) COD Annual Report: Grunfeld completed and submitted the report to the Town Hall. A copy will be distributed to the members.

3.) Follow-up: Disabled Person's Protection Commission (DPPC): Sarah Nechamen, who presented about the DPPC at the January meeting, got back to us to let us know if COD members are considered mandated reporters. The DPPC legal team said that strictly based on the regulations they are not. Nechamen continued on to emphasize that anyone can make a report of abuse to DPPC, and since commission members are more closely connected to the disability community than most, they are more likely to suspect abuse and have reason to make a report.

4.) Budget: Grit trail wheelchair: Grunfeld reported that at the January meeting she had meant to pass on a request from the Selectboard Chair, Rene Wood, asking for \$250 from the COD budget to pay for an adaptor kit for the Grit wheelchair. The adaptor kit changes the width of the seat between 16" and 18" depending on the needs of the user. During the excitement about the chair Grunfeld neglected to pose the question. Since that time, Grunfeld and Mercer have investigated the adaptor kit and found that it would be better not to use the kit. The chair would have to be taken to the bike shop each time an adjustment is needed, and they advised Wood to purchase the fixed 18" chair instead as it can be used by more people. A smaller chair can be purchased in the future if it is needed. / Pam would like to begin spreading the word about the chair in the Sheffield and Great Barrington communities and with hiking groups. We all agreed to wait until the chair is actually ordered.

5.) Library's evacuation drill update: We are still awaiting word that the drill has been scheduled.

6.) Town Accessibility Handbook update: Mercer and MacKenzie are not yet ready to report.

7.) **Sheffield Times' article:** MacKenzie submitted an article to the Sheffield Times reporting on the DPPC presentation given at the January COD Meeting. Mercer is interested in submitting an article about the Grit wheelchair for the May/June issue.

8.) **ADA Self-Evaluation Update:** Working on this report was postponed until the next meeting when more members are in attendance.

9.) **Member's Items:** Mullen still has hopes of moving the collection of COD history to the Town Offices for storage. She will try to make an appointment as the Town Hall is closed due to Covid. Mullen tried to reach out to Marsha Pshenishny with the New Marlborough COD but Pshenishny's contact information no longer works. Mullen will try other avenues.

10.) **Visitors' Items:** There were no visitors.

11.) **Items for next meeting's agenda.** Approval of minutes, update on library evacuation drill, Town Accessibility Handbook update, Sheffield Times articles, ADA Self-Evaluation working session.

12.) **Date, time, place for next meeting:** Friday, March 18, 10:30 AM. Whether the meeting will be virtual, or in-person, will be determined closer to the date.

13.) **Communications:** There were none.

14.) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



Laura Grunfeld
Chair, Commission on Disabilities