



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



Friday, May 17, 2019
Bushnell Sage Library, upstairs meeting room
Meeting officially opened at 10:35 AM

Commission Members

Present: Laura Grunfeld, Chair
Dale Alden
Rick Brown
Gail Mullen
Priscilla Rueger
Absent: None
Guests: Tom Stalker

Grunfeld called the Commission on Disabilities (COD) meeting officially open at 10:35 AM.

- 1.) **Approval of March 15 minutes:** By consensus, the March 15, 2019 minutes were approved.
- 2.) **New Marlborough COD Visitor:** Tom Stalker, Acting Chair of the COD in New Marlborough, established one year ago, attended as a visitor. The New Marlborough COD web page is available at www.newmarlboroughma.gov.
- 3.) **Sheffield Times Article:** Dale Alden wrote an article about accessible trails in our area. Grunfeld visited the Covered Bridge and noticed that there is quite a difference in level between the ground level and the entrance to the bridge. By consensus it was agreed that Grunfeld could ask the Town to re-grade and fix the approaches to the bridge.
- 4.) **Update on Town Center parking report:** Alden presented his new version of the report to the group. Alden will get hard copies printed and leave them in the COD mailbox at Town Hall for members to pick up. Members will review the report for the next meeting. Brown contacted LaBombard in May regarding the Complete Streets status. Brown and the group talked about letting LaBombard know that this report would likely be done at the end of summer. Grunfeld reported on an email exchange with Jeff Dougan of the MA Office on Disability. He provided resources on parking regulations and agreed to come perform a site visit. Dates are being considered. Mullen and Brown will not be going to the Conway School Complete Streets Senior Presentations at this time.
- 5.) **Sheffield Fair Update:** The fair's new hours this year will be 11am to 4pm. Alden stated that he is not available to staff the booth. Rueger, Brown, and Mullen are available to staff the booth. Grunfeld will continue to staff the accessible parking area. / Alden suggested having a PowerPoint and or video display. Alden has access to a 19" television that could be used for the display. The COD members will send suggested videos to Alden. Alden will talk with MOD to see if they have videos. / Grunfeld reported that she has been in touch with Lisa Smyle, an American Sign Language interpreter who lives in Monterey. Smyle may be able to connect Grunfeld with a family that has members who are deaf and would be able to teach a song in sign language as a COD sponsored activity. / Mullen will talk with Karen

Lindquist, Library Director, regarding developing experiential access awareness activities with children. / Brown will develop a survey to distribute at the COD booth. / Grunfeld suggested that we each have a nametag that says "Ask me about the Commission on Disabilities" or wording like that. / The members agreed that the COD would pay for the Fair booth fee.

6.) **Film Festival Update:** Mullen has passed this on to the parent group at the school and they may take it up in the fall.

7.) **Legislative Breakfast report:** Alden, Brown, and Grunfeld attended The 19th Annual Berkshire Disabilities Legislative Breakfast on March 29. Many organizations and agencies that serve people with disabilities in Berkshire County made presentations. Legislators were present and we interacted with a few of them. Mullen reminded us that we had planned to attend a meeting of the Pittsfield COD and we should try to schedule this in the future.

8.) **Members' Items:** Mullen: Her term is expiring and we have asked her stay on board. She has agreed. Brown: How can we monitor what is happening with the ADA Self-Evaluation? To be added to next meeting's agenda. Grunfeld: Her term is also expiring and she has reapplied. Alden: He will try to find the Canaan CT accessible playground.

9.) **Items for next meeting's agenda:** In June we will meet with Jeff Dougan to perform a site visit of the town center. At July's meeting we will have the following items on the agenda: How to monitor progress on the ADA Self-Evaluation, Sheffield Times article, Sheffield Fair updates, Town Center parking update, officer elections.

10.) **Date, time, place for next meeting:** Date TBD: Meeting with Jeff Dougan to perform an accessibility site visit for the Town Center parking. / July 19, 10:30AM: COD meeting upstairs at the library.

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

12.) **Adjournment:** Mullen moved to close the meeting. Brown seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:31PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Laura Grunfeld
Chair, Commission on Disabilities