



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



Friday, August 21, 2020
Virtual meeting by conference call

Commission Members

Present: Laura Grunfeld, Chair
Rick Brown
Pam Mercer
Gail Mullen
Priscilla Rueger

Absent: None

Guests: None

Grunfeld chaired the meeting. She called the Commission on Disabilities (COD) meeting officially open at 10:37 AM.

Grunfeld read the required opening statement: *In accordance with Gov. Bakers 3/12/20 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting law, and the Governor's 3/15/20 Order limiting the number of people who may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of Sheffield Commission on Disabilities, is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public is permitted (other than virtually), but every effort will be made to ensure you can participate in this meeting. When we hear by a ping sound that someone has joined the meeting we will ask that person to introduce themselves.*

1.) Approval of July 24 minutes: By consensus, the July 24, 2020 minutes were approved. (A typo on the agenda for this meeting incorrectly indicated the meeting date as July 19).

2.) MA Office on Disabilities Grant Suggestions: Grunfeld submitted the following suggestions to Rene Wood, who is writing the grant application:

- a. Emergency evacuation chairs, two for the library and one for the Town Hall.
- b. A trail wheelchair designed to traverse rough outdoor trails, available for loan through the library or Town Hall.
- c. An emergency pull cord for the downstairs bathroom at the Senior Center.
- d. Motion activated outside lighting at the Senior Center.

3.) Covered Bridge Park Accessibility: Mercer checked with Town Hall and found that the Town does own the property that the boulders are on. We have not yet heard back from the Town Administrator about her contact with the Highway Department. It is suggested that we follow up with the Highway Department ourselves, as we know LaBombard is busy. Mercer and Grunfeld touched base with Will Conklin, Executive Director of Greenagers, about possibly making the Covered Bridge Lane a more accessible trail. Since most of the lane is on private property it could be tricky but may be possible.

4.) **Sheffield Times Article:** Mercer has submitted her first column in a series called "Accessible Outdoors." It is about an accessible trail at the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary in Lenox and will be published in the September/October issue of the Sheffield Times.

5.) **ADA Self-Evaluation Update:** The group worked on updating the ADA Self-Evaluation document. It was not completed and work will resume at the next meeting after we have input from the head of each department concerned. Discussion included these points:

- a. We will focus on adding more accessible elements at the Town Park playground after an accessible restroom has been installed (part of the current CDBG design grant). Consider an accessible composting toilet.
- b. Accessible upgrades to Town facilities need more publicity.
- c. We should identify which projects need grants and or approvals outside of the Town, versus things that can be done by someone who puts their mind to it.
- d. The accessibility questionnaire ("COD Mailing") results will help us prioritize our efforts.
- e. We need to ask LaBombard to update the COD about Complete Streets.

6.) **Members' Items:** There were none.

7.) **Visitors' Items:** No visitors were present.

8.) **Items for next meeting's agenda:** Meet with Department heads regarding the ADA Self-Evaluation.

9.) **Date, time, place for next meeting:** Friday September 18, 10:30 AM. Virtual or, if allowed, in-person at the Pavilion.

10.) **Communications:** None

11.) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



Laura Grunfeld
Chair, Commission on Disabilities