



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



Friday, February 19, 2021
Virtual meeting by conference call

Commission Members

Present: Laura Grunfeld, Chair
Rick Brown
Pam Mercer
Priscilla Rueger
Absent: Gail Mullen
Guests: None

Grunfeld chaired the meeting. She called the Commission on Disabilities (COD) meeting officially open at 10:33 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 January 15, 2021 minutes: By consensus, the January 15, 2021 minutes were approved with two corrections.

2.) Covered Bridge Park Accessibility: The Town has moved the boulder at the Covered Bridge Park that blocked the path to wheelchairs. The COD thanks Mercer for keeping on top of this and helping to make the pathway from the bridge to Boardman street more accessible to outdoor enthusiasts who use wheelchairs.

3.) Sheffield Times' Articles: Mercer's Accessible Outdoors column for the March/April issue has been turned in. It is about the Stride organization that helps people with disabilities enjoy many recreational activities all the year-round in the tri-state region. Mercer will begin working on the column for the next issue. She may focus on the trail at Lake Mansfield. Grunfeld will help with editing.

4.) COD Annual Report: Grunfeld, with editing help from Brown and Rene Wood, prepared and turned in the COD 2020 Annual Report to the Town Administrator's office.

5.) Complete Streets grant update: Grunfeld reported that Wood explained to her that the first round of the Complete Streets project will be used to fund the improvement of crosswalks on Berkshire School Road and install flashing beacons at the crosswalks by the school entrances. The Town will be looking at including the village center sidewalks and accessible parking in the next round of the grant.

The grant does not cover engineering/design costs and the \$72,000 for an engineering study was not in the village coffers at the time the grant was submitted.

6.) **ADA Self-Evaluation Reports:** Mercer reported that the Sheffield Senior Center submitted their ADA Self-Evaluation updates to the Select Board. Mercer learned that the 911 system does have TTY capabilities. Chief Munson has asked the COD to notify people that a TTY call does not include information about where the caller is located or what their name is. People who are using the TTY system should include their name and location at the beginning of the call. We should include this information in the pamphlet we want to make as well as in other notices. The COD is interested in finding out why a TTY call does not include that information automatically and Mercer will follow up on that. Grunfeld's report was not yet ready. Mullen was not present. This agenda item will be continued to the next meeting.

7.) **ADA Self-Evaluation Priorities:** This agenda item is postponed until the next meeting.

8.) **Members' Items:**

- i) The Town wants to use Shared Streets grant money to create an accessible trail at the Town Park. Grunfeld will try to keep the COD in the loop by monitoring the Select Board agendas.
- ii) Grunfeld will send a thank you email to Rene Wood for thinking to use the extra funds for an accessible trail in the woods.

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

10.) **Items for next meeting's agenda:** Reports from Mercer, Mullen, and Grunfeld regarding ADA self-evaluation updates from Town departments. Discussion to determine what projects we will recommend to the Select Board as priorities from the ADA Self-Evaluation list.

11.) **Date, time, place for next meeting:** Friday, March 19, 10:30 AM. This will be a virtual meeting, by Zoom and conference call.

12.) **Communications:** None

13.) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



Laura Grunfeld
Chair, Commission on Disabilities