



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



Friday, February 16, 2018
Bushnell Sage Library, Upstairs Meeting Room
Meeting officially opened at 10:34 AM

Commission Members

Present: Laura Grunfeld, Chair
Dale Alden
Gail Mullen
Priscilla Rueger
Guests: None

Grunfeld called the Commission on Disabilities (COD) meeting officially open at 10:34 AM. Per request of the Select Board, the COD records its meetings.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1.) Meeting timing:** Grunfeld requested that we attempt to keep the meeting to 1 hour, 1.5 hours at the most, unless we have something urgent to discuss. All were in agreement.
- 2.) Approval of December 15, 2017 and January 26, 2018 COD Minutes:** *By consensus, the minutes were approved.*
- 3.) Police Station Accessibility update:** Per Rhonda LaBombard, the grant to renovate the police station entrance and make it accessible was not awarded. The members of the COD are saddened by this news.
- 4.) H.R. 620 letter and update:** We were expecting the vote to come to Congress this fall, however the vote was pushed forward to February 15, a day before this meeting. On February 14, the House of Representatives adopted the legislation, and if adopted by the Senate at a later date, it will limit the ADA's efficacy. The COD had planned to write a letter against passage of the legislation in the House but did not get a chance to do so.
- 5.) Sheffield Times Article:** Alden presented the article he had written with some editing assistance from Rueger. The group made some more edits to the article during the meeting and Alden will submit it to the Sheffield Times today.
- 6.) Budget planning:** This item is tabled until the next meeting.
- 7.) Members' items:**
 - a. Mullen suggested that we visit a meeting of the Pittsfield Commission on Disabilities. She will contact their Chair to make arrangements. We are waiting for better weather and a time that is convenient to all.

- b. Mullen shared a letter of complaint from a Great Barrington resident regarding an allegedly non-compliant restaurant in Great Barrington. She pointed out that the letter was written by an architect and cited the codes in question. She said that given the new H.R. 620 legislation, all letters will need to be written with this level of expertise and that makes it difficult for people who are not as familiar with the specifics of the laws.

8.) Items for the next meeting's agenda: Approval of minutes, budget planning, update on sidewalk conditions on Sheffield's Main Street.

9.) Date, time, place for next meeting: The next meeting will be Friday, March 16, 2018, 10:30AM, at Bushnell Sage Library.

10.) Communications: Home Modification Loan Program letter from the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation.

11.) Adjournment: *Mullen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rueger. The motion carried unanimously.* Grunfeld adjourned the meeting at 12:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Laura Grunfeld
Chair, Commission on Disabilities