



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



Friday, July 20, 2018
Bushnell Sage Library, Upstairs Meeting Room
Meeting officially opened at 10:34 AM

Commission Members

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

Grunfeld called the Commission on Disabilities (COD) meeting officially open at 10:34 AM.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1.) Approval of May 4, 2018 COD Minutes: By consensus, the May 4, 2018 minutes were approved.

2.) Welcome to Rick Brown: COD members gave Brown a brief history about the Commission and the work we have done. Brown let us know his background. Members introduced themselves.

3.) Sheffield Fair Planning: Mullen to bring materials from storage. Mullen and Alden to set up. Members to work out a staffing schedule. Grunfeld to do accessible parking. The team will work to obtain new materials to hand out.

4.) Update: Alden Sidewalk Report: Alden reported on his findings in mapping and identifying the accessible parking spots in the center of Sheffield. Some did not seem to be properly signed. The sidewalks are owned by the businesses. Grunfeld to send federal and state parking regulations to the COD members. Concerns raised: Number of spaces available, signage, curb cuts and accessible routes, people without disabilities parking in accessible spots. Grunfeld described the usefulness of the Universal Parking Space design.

Alden to ask LaBombard about the Complete Streets application deadline and what deadline we have for getting information to them. Brown to join Alden in working on preparing a report with the COD's suggestions for the Complete Streets application. The report is to contain the current state of accessible parking and what our recommendations are which may include moving accessible parking spots to more helpful locations. The report would also include our recommendations for safely crossing Route 7, which may be to reduce the speed limit and provide some type of assistance with crossing the street. Mullen will check with Chief Munson about his street crossing recommendations. We are not only making recommendations to be in compliance with the law but also to be more accessible to all.

We were all reminded that during a recent Select Board meeting, Mullen told the Select Board that the COD was interested in the Complete Streets program.

- 5.) **Sheffield Times Jul/Aug article:** Grunfeld to communicate with Andrea Scott about the Sheffield Times article regarding the Fair.
- 6.) **H.R. 620 Status:** H.R. 620 passed in the House of Representatives on February 15, 2018. On February 26, 2018 the bill was received at the U.S. Senate. Brown to make a call to the MA Senators to find out about the status of the bill. Brown will write a draft letter for our approval if urgency is needed.
- 7.) **Member's Items:** Application for Variance placed in the COD inbox. Mullen and Grunfeld to meet regarding the application. / Alden: Budget stands at \$300. \$15 will go to Sheffield Fair booth leaving \$285. / Grunfeld will talk with Karen Lindquist, Library Director, about the location of the emergency evacuation sled and keeping it in an easily accessible location. / Grunfeld attended the MOD Advanced Community Access Training on June 26.
- 8.) **Items for the next meeting's agenda:** Sheffield Fair planning, Complete Streets, Sheffield Times article, H.R. 620 letter, Variance application, AARP Community Challenges grant, Mitigation Planning Handbook, Conflict of interest meeting, Evacuation sled training.
- 9.) **Date, time, place for next meeting:** The next meeting will be Friday, August 24, 2018, 10:30 AM, at Bushnell Sage Library. The meeting following will be September 21, 10:30 AM, at the library.
- 10.) **Communications:** Brown's appointment letter. Application for Variance, Sheffield Fair.
- 11.) **Adjournment:** Mullen moved to close the meeting. Rueger seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Laura Grunfeld
Chair, Commission on Disabilities