



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



Friday, September 21, 2018
Bushnell Sage Library, Basement Meeting Room
Meeting officially opened at 10:39 AM

Commission Members

Present: Laura Grunfeld, Chair
Dale Alden
Priscilla Rueger
Rick Brown
Gail Mullen

Guests: None

Grunfeld called the Commission on Disabilities (COD) meeting officially open at 10:39 AM.

1.) Approval of July 20 and August 24, 2018 Minutes: *By consensus, the July 20 and August 24, 2018 minutes were approved.*

2.) Complete Streets Recommendations: Brown, new to the Commission, asked where the impetus came from to make recommendations about the Complete Streets application to the Selectboard. The history of the COD's interest in the town center's accessibility was reviewed. In meetings going back to 2009, the COD has discussed accessibility in the town center. More recently there has been discussion about the uneven brick sidewalks, dangerous street crossings, poorly marked accessible parking spaces and access aisles, lack of accessible sidewalks leading to Mount Everett School and the Senior Center, and lack of bike lanes. At the Berkshire Disabilities Legislative Breakfast in March of this year, members of the COD met Adam Hinds who suggested looking into Complete Streets for funding. Mullen recounted speaking with Chief Munson who said that Sheffield was already working on a Complete Streets application. At the April 30, 2018 Selectboard meeting Mullen told the Selectboard that the COD supported the Complete Streets application and hoped that the Board would address some of the concerns that were included in an email sent from the COD to the Board earlier that day.

During the meeting the COD called Alicia Dulin who had taken the Complete Streets training while serving as assistant to the Town Administrator. Dulin has since moved to another office within Town Hall. Dulin informed the COD that she was no longer a part of the application process. Grunfeld sent an email to Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard stating that the COD would like to give input into the Complete Streets application and asking where the Town was in the application process, who the grant application contact person is, and asking if LaBombard would be able to attend the next COD meeting.

Brown reported that graduate students at The Conway School in Northampton have done some technical work with Complete Streets. The COD has asked Brown to inquire as to the services provided and potential costs involved and to come to the October meeting with this information if possible.

3.) Members' Items: A) Sled training: In an August 21, 2018 email to LaBombard Grunfeld had asked if the COD could host an instructional training for town employees regarding how to use the

emergency evacuation sleds. There was no response yet so the COD sent another email during this meeting. B) Brown presented a sample Emergency medical information form that could be helpful to Town residents. The COD will discuss this at a later meeting. C) Alden queried whether it was worth having a booth at the Sheffield Fair considering the effort involved and the low attendance at the table. In a brief brainstorming session some ideas brought forth for consideration were: focus on one topic, give presentations on stage such as an assistive listening device demonstration, basic sign language class, etc. Discussion was tabled until a later meeting. D) Rueger is still trying to reach the AARP regarding their grant but no luck so far.

4.) Items for next meeting's agenda: Possible meeting with LaBombard, COD documents update and distribution, Complete Streets Downtown Sheffield site visit.

5.) Date, time, place for next meeting: Friday, October 19, 10:30AM, at the Town Hall. The members will meet in the downstairs meeting room and then move outside to conduct a site visit in the center of town.

6.) Communications: April 30, 2018 email to LaBombard and the Selectboard. September 21, 2018 email to LaBombard.

7.) Adjournment: Mullen moved to close the meeting. Alden seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at about 12:47PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Laura Grunfeld
Chair, Commission on Disabilities