



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



Friday, December 15, 2017
Bushnell Sage Library
Meeting officially opened at 10:39 AM

Commission Members

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

Guests: None

Grunfeld called the Commission on Disabilities (COD) meeting officially open at 10:39 AM. Per request of the Select Board, the COD records its meetings.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1.) Approval of November 17, 2017 COD Minutes: Alden moved that the COD Minutes for November 17, 2017 be approved as submitted, seconded by Rueger. After discussion about and adoption of one edit, the motion carried unanimously.

2.) Town Hall Accessibility Project Update: Per Rhonda LaBombard, the project is to be rebid in January 2018.

3.) Facebook Page Proposal Update: In a notice sent November 22, 2017, the Select Board denied the COD's request to establish a Facebook Page. "The reason for the denial is that it is too difficult to monitor comments or information. We would be happy to post or email blast information on the Town's website, which would be linked to the COD's page." The COD discussed the Facebook Page further and established that the reasons for requesting a Facebook page are: (a) to reach out to the citizens with disabilities in Sheffield and their families and build a sense of community; (b) to recruit new members for the COD, and (c) to post helpful information, events, and links to organizations and other entities that provide assistance to people with disabilities.

The COD had suggested creating a Facebook Page rather than a Facebook Group so that they would have control over what is posted on the page. The COD had suggested that the Town establish the COD's Facebook Page so that Town personnel would be able to control who has permission to monitor the Page and to ensure that monitors are current COD members. The COD decided to invite LaBombard to our next meeting to further discuss this issue.

4.) Town Park Playground Update: An email from LaBombard stated "There is not an update on the playground at the Park, other than the old one has been removed." Grunfeld reported that she had emailed LaBombard with the suggestions from the November COD meeting and a couple of

other links with further information about accessible playgrounds. Alden shared information with the COD from the U.S. Access Board concerning accessible playgrounds.

5.) Cost of Printing for June COD Mailing: Per Kwik Print the cost of printing 1,500 double-sided, black ink on colored paper, 1/3 page size (500 sheets cut into thirds), would be \$90. The COD may safely budget \$100 for the mailing to cover any potential increase in cost since the printing would be done months from now. Grunfeld moved to budget \$100 towards the June COD mailing, seconded by Alden. Discussion regarding the purpose of the mailing included recruiting and information. The motion carried unanimously.

6.) Open Meeting Law Receipts: Alden has turned in his Certificate of Receipt. Mullen and Grunfeld plan to do so before the next meeting.

7.) Alden Budget Update: \$29.95 spent (\$15 Sheffield in Celebration booth, \$14.95 Alden toner). Remaining \$270.05. \$100 dedicated to mailing leaves \$170.00.

8.) Chair's agenda items: Grunfeld noted that the Police Station ADA Grant Design Advisory Committee now has the additional duty of reviewing all of the architects and choosing the best fit for this project. The COD suggested names of people who have building experience that might be interested in serving on the Committee.

9.) New Business: Mullen read a November 28th communication from the City of Worcester COD asking that members of other Commissions in Massachusetts reach out to their representatives and ask them to vote against HR 620, which curtails the rights of people with disabilities. COD members feel strongly that our mission is to support the Americans with Disabilities Act, promote accessibility, and remove barriers. Passage of HR 620 would water down the law and rebuild barriers. Being unsure of the rights of the COD to conduct political action, we sent an email to the MOD asking that question. Alden will inquire into the status of the HR 620 bill and report to us at the next meeting.

10.) Items for the January 26th meeting agenda: LaBombard: Facebook page, playground, budget, HR 620. Police Station accessibility update.

11.) Date, time, place for next meeting: The next meeting will be January 26, 2018, 10:30 a.m., at the Town Hall.

12.) Communications: November 28, fax from Worcester COD regarding HR 620. November 22, 2017 memo from LaBombard regarding Facebook page request. December 11, 2017 memo from Town of Sheffield regarding 2019 Annual Budget.

13.) Adjournment: *Grunfeld moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mullen. The motion carried unanimously.* Grunfeld adjourned the meeting at 12:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Laura Grunfeld
Chair, Commission on Disabilities