

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
Friday, June 17, 2011  
BUSHNELL-SAGE LIBRARY Downstairs  
3:30 PM**

Commission Members Present: Laura Grunfeld Interim Chair  
Dave Wells [with the assistance of Nan Wells] (clerk)  
Claudia Martin  
Don Perry

Visitors: Kate Plaquet (Berkshire South Aquatic Exercise Instructor),  
Nancy Perry and one other visitor

Interim Chair Grunfeld called the C.O.D. meeting open at 3:30 PM.

**THE COMMISSION'S MEETING OPENED WITH THE SPEAKER SERIES:** Kate Plaquet opened the June 17<sup>th</sup> C.O.D. Speaker Series with a very informative presentation highlighting the many activities offered by Berkshire South in Great Barrington to those with disabilities. Our second presentation was a DVD and other resource materials sent to us by Marcy Marchello, Universal Access Program Coordinator of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and author of the blog "Everyone Outdoors." The DVD demonstrated the progress that has been made in MA to make recreation areas and recreation accessible to those with disabilities. The third presenter was Nan Wells, who brought many gardening tools on loan from Ward's Nursery, for her hands-on presentation entitled "Adaptive Gardening for those with Disabilities." She, also, provided those present with a number of adaptive gardening handouts along with a printout of adaptive recreation resources and website links. Light refreshments were served.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the Commission on Disabilities for May 20, 2011 were moved to be approved by Perry, seconded by Martin, and unanimously approved as written.

**DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION OF THE C.O.D. SPEAKER SERIES:** The Commission continues to feel that sponsoring quality speakers as part of our monthly C.O.D. meetings is beneficial. Good programs take time to build a following, meanwhile the Commission feels that as the C.O.D. becomes more informed about the kinds of services that are available to residents of Sheffield who have disabilities the more qualified the members become as a resource group for our Sheffield Community.

**MARTIN SUGGESTED WELLS MIGHT BE THE PRESENTER FOR THE SENIOR CENTER ICE CREAM SOCIAL IN JULY:** Martin said she would ask John-Arthur if this presentation would be a good one for the July Senior Center Social. Members of the C.O.D. decided to all attend this presentation, if it was a "Go".

**WELLS ANNOUNCED THAT THE JULY 15 SPEAKER SERIES WILL BE "REACHING FOR NEW HORIZONS":** The theme of this program will be: Assisting people with disabilities so that they may participate in activities previously unavailable to them. The program will have 3 presenters: Community Access to the Arts (CATA); Special Olympics; and Blue Rider Stables, Inc. The presenters have been encouraged to invite some of the participants and clients they serve as part of their presentations.

**WELLS HAS ASKED UCP of BERKSHIRE COUNTY TO BE THE PRESENTER AT THE COMMISSION'S AUGUST 19 MEETING:** The August meeting program will emphasize assistive technology for those with sensory deficits.

**OUR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE July 15, 2011 at 3:30 PM**

**AGENDA:**

1. Speaker Program ... "Reaching for New Horizons"  
Peggy Harner, Volunteer Local Coordinator for Special Olympics, Adrienne Brown, Program Coordinator for Community Access to the Arts (CATA), Christine Sierau, Head Instructor for Blue Rider Stables, Inc.
2. Reports
3. Speaker Series continuing evaluation
4. Consider ways to increase Speaker attendance
5. New member recruiting effort
6. Other business

Wells moved to adjourn this meeting, seconded by Martin, and unanimously so approved.

Grunfeld adjourned the meeting at 5:11 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells] Clerk