

Sherman Housing Commission

Minutes

May 21, 2012

Present: Jill Finch, Carol Voorhees, Lorna Barrett, Catharine Cooke, Steve Roffwarg, Peter Cohen, Michelle Hansen, Beth Trott, Jill Finch. Clay Cope, First Selectman. David Berto, Housing Enterprise. Lynne Gomez, clerk.

Minutes: A motion to accept the April minutes as read was made by Jill Finch and seconded by Catharine Cooke. Unanimous vote in favor.

Housing Forum: Steve affirmed that the Housing Forum was set for June 9 at 9:30 a.m. at the Sherman School Cafeteria. The Housing Commission will meet again with the Commission on Aging on June 4 as a dress rehearsal for the forum. Steve presented a rough draft of a flier to be inserted into the Citizen News. It would have copy front and back, 8 ½ X 11, colored paper with black ink. Discussion ensued on the changes and revisions to the flier. Final edits will be emailed to members for final discussion in the coming week. Catharine will work on layout and font selections.

Assignments were made for the forum. Beth and John Jenner will put together stats. Jill is in charge of publicity. Jill noted that people want to see charts. Catharine will add stat charts to the power point presentation. Catharine will work with Steve on layout of the flier and email a proposed final draft to membership. Catharine will select appropriate samples of visuals of housing to include in her presentation. These will be available for June 4 meeting. Catharine and Michelle have planned a road trip to photograph local senior housing that is in keeping with the style possibilities for Sherman. These photos will be part of the presentation.

Steve will create a questionnaire and handouts for distribution at the Forum. Contact info will be added to the handouts, including ShermanSeniorCenter@charter.net. Cheryl Hawkins is available to get food donations for the Forum. Beth will order coffee from American Pie. Coffee will be served at the opening of the Forum, however, refreshments will be held until the break. Lynne will contact the school to arrange for the doors to be open at 8 a.m. Lynne has requested 7 round tables, chairs, a podium and mike and 2 large tables for speakers. Michelle H. will get pencils for questionnaire, emblazoned with the logo: "Sherman Seniors Count!" Beth will get nametags. Catharine and Michelle will meet with Jim Luchsinger for instruction on the computerized presentation system.

Guest speakers will be Bill and Catherine Bachrach of Kent, from Templeton Farm; Lesley Higgins-Biddle of Local Initiative Support Corporation; and David Berto. A newsletter from Templeton was distributed. Steve, as chair of Housing Commission, will

speak to the history of the commission. Jeanette will speak briefly on the desire and benefits of keeping Sherman's seniors in Sherman. John Jenner would like to speak to the stats. Speakers will be limited to 10 minutes.

David noted that the first part of the agenda is the "meat" of the matter, which is Sherman residents interacting with Sherman residents. The second part, he said, which is the guest speakers, is the "dressing."

Jill Finch wanted clarification of the goal of the forum. She noted that it does not address the 2 votes needed at referendum to move forward on the project. The first vote would be permission to check out the land with surveys and the Second Vote would be to acquire land. Steve noted that the forum's tone is informational at this point. Peter Cohen suggested that people might be put off if confronted first with questions of site control and votes. At what point in the forum will the "process" of moving forward take place?

Discussion followed on the subtleties and wording of the agenda of the forum, as presented in the flier for the Citizen News. Bottom line: it is an informational forum in which facts will be presented, input from audience will be elicited and a dialogue begun. Jill wanted to be sure there was a "What's Next" component of the forum, in which the process was illuminated. Jeanette Perlman noted that the Housing Commission is asking for townspeople input. It is a partnership.

Discussion followed as David explored the visual images to be presented at the Forum. Catharine emphasized the permanent and powerful impact of visuals and her desire that only those structures suitable for Sherman should be presented. Bottom line: Catharine will maintain editorial control on the visuals presented. David wondered if the group wanted a site scheme on the property of interest. Bottom line: No, until we have site control, there is no site survey.

Discussion followed on the possibilities of creating a housing scenario in which some units were modest and some were larger and more affluent. Bottom line: There exists housing mixes and it is possible. It depends on site and funding sources. First Selectman Cope questioned whether the private development being discussed was possible on property owned by the town. Discussion ensued. First Selectman Cope also expressed his interest that the most people attend the forum as possible and suggested that Steve invite selectmen prior to the upcoming selectmen's meeting. That way, the notice of the forum would appear in coverage of the selectmen's meeting in the Citizen News. Clay also suggested getting the proposed agenda to the office for inclusion on the town website.

Discussion followed on the logistics of the event, including table placement, position of mike and podium, etc.

Motion to adjourn: 7:53 p.m.

Next joint meeting of the Sherman Housing Commission and the Commission on Aging will be Monday, June 4 at 6 p.m. at the Sherman School Cafeteria.

Submitted,

Lynne Gomez

Clerk