

Sherman Housing Commission

(joint meeting with the Sherman Commission on Aging)

Minutes

June 4, 2012

Present: Steve Roffwarg, chair Housing Commission; Michelle Hansen, Catharine Cooke, John O'Connor. Jeanette Perlman, co-chair Commission on Aging; John Jenner, Lorna Barrett, Carol Voorhees, Jill Finch. Beth Trott, director of the Senior Center and director of Sherman Social Services. Chris Jellen, selectman. Lynne Gomez, Clerk.

Minutes: Reading and approval of the minutes of the May 21 meeting were tabled until the next regularly scheduled Housing Commission meeting.

Housing Forum: Steve gave an overview of the Housing Forum, planned for Saturday, June 9. NOTE: in last meeting, two referenda were mentioned. As it turns out, only one referendum would be required. A room request form has been filed with the school to provide a podium, mike, 2 long tables and chairs for the speakers and 7 round tables and chairs for guests. A custodian has been hired for the morning to open the doors at 8 a.m. and to set up tables and chairs.

Refreshments: Cheryl Hawkins will bring refreshments and coffee in AM. Coffee will be served as guests enter, but the danish will be reserved until the break.

Publicity: Steve handed out flyers for distribution around town. The flyers will also be inserts on Wednesday in the Citizen News. The sandwich board is up. Jill Finch suggested calling people who might want to attend.

Questionnaire: Steve distributed a questionnaire for use at the forum, in order to get feedback. A few changes were made and questionnaire will be copied by Beth's office for Saturday.

Pencils, pads, nametags: Michelle purchased pencils. Nametags will be brought by Beth. A note pad will be placed at each table for sign-in.

Discussions: Commissioners explored the proper use of the term "affordable" and its ramifications. Consensus was that the focus of this phase of work is on the neediest seniors. The decision was made to eliminate the use of the phrase "HUD supported" because chances are HUD will not finance the housing project. Jeanette Perlman noted that HUD funding is less available and state and other federal sources are becoming more

available. Other discussion ensued and clarification reached on various aspects of the presentations.

Catharine Cooke and Michelle Hansen presented slides via power point. Presentation was edited. Clarification was reached on main focus of the forum. Catharine suggested that a multi-prong approach to senior housing is part of the Housing Commission's mandate. Other commissioners requested that the focus of this forum be the housing project on the table and not the multi-pronged approach, which includes refurbishment of existing structures.

Organization of the program dominated the rest of the meeting. Steve will open the forum with remarks followed by Jeanette Perlman. The visual presentation of existing senior housing in neighboring towns will follow. A refreshment break will take place. Refreshments will be enjoyed as the second part of the program begins, which includes speakers. Question and answer will conclude the program.

Custodian: The consensus was to hire the custodian at \$18 per hour to open the doors at 8 a.m., set up the tables and chairs and lock up.

Motion to Adjourn: 7:45 p.m.

Submitted,

Lynne Gomez
clerk