

Sherman Housing Commission

June 18, 2012

Present: Steve Roffwarg, chair. Michelle Hansen, Jeanette Perlman, John O'Connor.
Guest: Selectman Andrea O'Connor.

Minutes: Minutes of the May 21 meeting were approved with one correction. The minutes of May 21 discussed 2 referenda. Only one referendum is required.

Minutes of June 4 were read. Jeanette made a motion to approve June 4 meeting, seconded by John. Unanimous in favor.

Steve accepted, with great regret, the resignation of Catharine Cooke from the commission. The Housing Commission discussed her outstanding contributions to the commission. Steve will draft a letter of acceptance, with regret. Catharine made a recommendation to have Charlie Reppenhagen take her place on the commission. The BOS will select a replacement. The Housing Commission may make a recommendation. Some names of potential candidates were mentioned.

Housing Forum: Steve noted the positive momentum from the Housing Forum. Andrea O'Connor followed the forum with a Selectman column in the Citizen News. Andrea will bring the issue before the BOS at the June meeting. The town attorney can draft a lease agreement but the need still exists to have a survey of the property. The property includes 60 contiguous acres with an easement to Iroquois Pipeline. It also includes a 36-acre easement.

Discussion ensued that if the town purchased the property, which it did, there must have been a basic map and survey.

Discussion followed on the positive impact of the forum and results of the questionnaire. The project's tax revenue and expenses were discussed. Tax income from the property would come from taxes on the value of the structures built.

The BOS meeting will be held on June 26.

Peter Cohen, co-chair of the Commission on Aging, offered any assistance the COA could provide in moving forward with the housing project.

Next step: Set a town meeting to discuss the lease agreement and adjourn to referendum.

Discussion followed that Lesley Higgins-Biddle of Local Initiative Support Corp. might be able to secure funds for a survey. The Housing Commission will discuss the possibility of having the Friends of the Senior Center act as a charitable organization and hold the funds which might support the survey.

Some discussion followed on the best access point to the property. Disseminating information was discussed. The Housing Commission will seek out representatives of the following community groups: Planning and Zoning, Wetlands, Conservation, Nairomi, the soccer club, park and rec, the Church, the JCC and adjacent homeowners. This list is not all-inclusive.

Pursuing site control through a lease agreement will be sought in conjunction with getting a clear picture of what zoning obstacles are present.

Discussion followed on presenting small group information sessions, such as the Senior Center's Coffee and Conversations.

Next Meeting: July 16 at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center.

John O'Connor made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeanette.

Submitted,

Lynne Gomez