

Sherman Housing Commission

March 24, 2014

Present: Steve Roffwarg, Jeanette Perlman, Charlie Reppenhagen, Michelle Hansen, and John O'Connor. Lynne Gomez, clerk.

Steve reported on Feb. 27 BOS meeting. He said there were people mobilized to oppose the project, with objections such as their desire for an architectural review board. Steve was not allowed to speak at the meeting and Eric Holub listed his objections to the project.

Jeanette noted that once you establish an architectural review board, it would be for every building in Sherman. She doubted whether the town really wanted that.

Discussion followed on the opposition's interest in preferencing Sherman residents for housing and their concern for increased taxes. Discussion followed on likely outcomes of the next BOS meeting, set for March 27. Steve reported that selectmen will discuss and possibly vote on amended lease.

Discussion followed on the fact that the Housing Commission has done everything it was asked. The Housing Commission has spent the last 4 years interviewing experts, hiring a consultant, getting surveys completed, walking the proposed lot, creating a Housing Trust, etc. The issue should now come before voters.

In the event of a "yes" vote at the next BOS meeting, allowing the lease question to go to a vote, the Housing Commission will work to refute arguments and educate the public fully on the project. Discussion followed regarding the lease and the trust. Commissioners lamented the amount of time it has taken to move the lease resolution forward.

Discussion followed on stating clearly to BOS the disappointment of the Commission. The following statement was drafted: "As a consequence of the BOS creating a series of deliberate delay tactics or discounting the entire Affordable Senior Housing Project being proposed, and creating a negative public environment, we as a commission can no longer function.

Over the past four years, we have brought in experts, done all that is required, paid for a consultant and engineering, to no avail. It looks like the BOS is not going to allow this project to go to voters. We cannot function in this environment." Someone from the committee will bring these concerns to the BOS.

Motion to adjourn: 6:35 pm

Submitted,

Lynne Gomez

Clerk

