



TOWN OF SHERMAN
Housing Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 18th, 2015
7:00 pm. Mallory Town Hall

FINAL

Members Present: A. Van Plachecki, B. Hoag, C. Faure

Absent: D. Tuck

Guests and Invited: First Selectman C. Cope

Call to Order: A. Van Plachecki Called the Meeting to Order at 7:04 pm

Approval April 20, 2015 Minutes:

B. Hoag Moved to Approve the Minutes of April 20, 2015 as written.

Seconded by: C. Faure Vote: For: Unanimous

Correspondence:

No correspondence was received.

Planning and Zoning June 4 Public Hearing

Chair A. Van Plachecki and C. Faure will speak on behalf of the Housing Commission at the Public Hearing in reference to the letter of recommendations read into record at the BoS meeting of February 2015.

Development of Public Survey regarding Housing in Sherman

Discussion took place regarding Senior housing approximately seven years ago, where only thirty five people responded. The Commission would like to conduct another survey, to include all of Sherman to get a feeling on how this Commission should proceed. C. Faure stated she could reach out to Lesley Biddle Higgins to attend a future meeting to discuss creating a new survey. The Commission discussed planning a meeting with the Town's Land Use Attys. M. Branse and M. Willis to discuss what other small Towns are doing to provide suitable options to Seniors. First Selectman C. Cope recommended holding a joint meeting with the Land Use Attys to include the Planning and Zoning Commission to ensure continuity and efficiency. Concerns the Commission would like to discuss with the Attys are: Variable density, population, open space, and varied density based on the percentage of acreage. First Selectman Cope stated he will reach out to P&Z as well as the Land Use Attys to come up with a time and date that works for all. Chair A. Van Plachecki reminded the Commission there will not be a June meeting. Issues were revisited in reference to the lack of accommodations for Seniors in Sherman such as no pharmacy, no public transportation, no sidewalks and no public sewer and water system. First Selectman C. Cope recommended reaching out to HVECO for survey questions that may have been used in the other area Towns recently. The Commission agreed to come up with some suggestions for survey questions to be discussed at the July meeting.

Comments from Commission members and topics for future discussion

B. Hoag submitted a report regarding a discussion with the Tax Assessor's Office and Tax Abatement incentives for Seniors in Sherman. The State of Connecticut provides tax relief to Seniors through a program called the "Circuit Breaker". The circuit breaker is a program which provides Tax Credits, Tax deferrals, freezes, or exemptions. Of the 169 municipalities in CT, there are 19 towns in Fairfield County- all 19 provide tax credit for qualifying seniors, 12 allow tax deferral, and 4 allow tax freezes for qualifying seniors. First Selectman Cope will meet with the Tax Assessor and put this item on the next BoS agenda for further discussion.

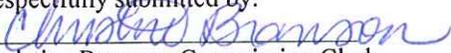
Public Comment

None

Adjournment

C. Faure Adjourned the Meeting at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by:


Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

April 26, 2015

APPROVED AS FINAL AT JULY 21, 2015 MEETING