



**Town of Sherman  
Housing Commission  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
July 20, 2015, 4:00 pm  
Mallory Town Hall**

**FINAL\***

**Members Present:** A. Van Plachecki, B. Hoag, C. Faure, and D. Tuck

**Invited and Audience:** First Selectman, C. Cope, J. Wey, T. Hollander, N. Volkmar, J. McRoberts, A. Jellen, and W. Knaak

**Guests:** Lesley Higgins Biddle and Erica Schwartz

**Call to Order:** Chair, A. Van Plachecki Called the Meeting to Order at 4:02pm

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner B. Hoag Moved to Approve the Minutes of May 18, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting, as written.

Seconded by: D. Tuck

Vote: For: Unanimous

**Survey Discussion:**

Lesley Higgins Biddle was invited to the table. Chair A. Van Plachecki introduced several members of the audience who were in attendance representing various Boards and Commissions. Chair A. Van Plachecki explained to Ms. Higgins Biddle a brief history of the Town's experience with proposing housing alternatives in the recent past which was met with confusion and resistance. The newly formed Housing Commission's charge continues to explore alternate housing needs for the Town. The Housing Commission has met several times in the past months and has made recommendations to the Board of Selectman as well as the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the need to explore ideas for the future development of Sherman. Ms. Higgins Biddle of the Ford Foundation was introduced, she works with local groups and initiatives to explore current and future housing needs of communities that are facing similar dilemmas. She will work with the Housing Commission to develop a survey to present to the Town which will help direct the efforts to best suit Sherman's needs. Ms. Higgins Biddle will send several examples of surveys she has helped other Towns develop so the Commission can compare what other Towns are doing. The Commission discussed overlay Zones as well as variable income housing developments. Once the surveys have been sent and shared, the Commission plans to review the examples and discuss at the next meeting.

**Public comment:**

**J. McRoberts** from the Commission on Aging commented she liked the idea of the survey, she would like to see a section that projects where people see Sherman in the next five, ten and fifteen years.

**N. Volkmar** of the Planning and Zoning Commission stated they recently conducted a survey regarding cluster housing, the results can be shared with the Housing Commission.

**T. Hollander**, also of the Planning & Zoning Commission stated the P&Z Commission would like to have a look at the survey for input.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner, B. Hoag Moved to Adjourn the Meeting at 4:50 pm.

Seconded by: D. Tuck

Vote: For: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted by:

Christine Branson, Clerk

July 27, 2015

\*APPROVED AS WRITTEN AT THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2015 RMM