

Sherman Housing Commission

Nov. 14, 2011

Present: Michelle Hansen, Jeanette Perlman, Steve Roffwarg, Catharine Cooke. Lynne Gomez, Clerk.

Minutes of the October meeting were approved as read with one change.

Discussion of the next steps for the Housing Commission were explored. Commissioners reiterated that housing is not a partisan issue, but a human issue. A STEAP grant (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) will be used for financing soil surveys and initial architect work. It has not been determined if Sherman was awarded this grant. An attempt will be made to get survey work completed before snow flies. After the survey, the architect can do a layout of proposed units.

Catharine Cooke proposed, and commissioners agreed, that the commission revisit its initial concept of taking a two prong approach to housing. Phase I would include pursuing senior housing that is affordable, whose funding stream is mostly from HUD, and re-purposed outbuildings. In other words, the commission would recommend both affordable, new housing and existing outbuildings as its 2-prong approach. Commissioners noted that it would recommend that Planning and Zoning Commission could explore and develop a plan whereby outbuildings would become eligible and legitimate housing options. They stated that this approach is successfully operating in neighboring towns.

This approach, they agreed, would bring a diversity of housing to Sherman.

In other business, the commissioners agreed to revisit their vote on selecting an architect to begin preliminary layouts on the proposed units. They did not rescind their vote, but just put a hold on moving forward with any architect for the present time. Steve will contact David Berto to inform him and the architects. In preparation for the December meeting, the commissioners will become familiar with the report from New Canaan on affordable housing for seniors and consider the merits of the 2-prong approach. The results of the STEAP grant application should be revealed by the next meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. in the Sherman School Conference Room.