

TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
Washington Housing Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
November 15, 2022

All Meetings are subjected to the approval by the Washington Housing Commission

**1. Call to Order:**

**Members-** Judie Gorra, Daryl Wright, Robert Woodrooffe, Henrietta Small, Carrie Loyd

**Staff-** Michelle Gorra

**Public-**Chris Charles, Lindsay Larson

2. **Motion to accept the minutes of the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting** made by Robert Woodrooffe, all in favor.
3. **Review of presentations by Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity-** Presentations were inspiring. They gave out the “yes in my backyard award” to someone who has given land that is attached to the land where they are currently living to affordable housing. The commission thinks we need to communicate more with people in town, and other commissions, about the funding opportunities for affordable housing. Funding for people who need to rebuild their houses for example; ramps, a roof that needs to be replaced. We also need to communicate with Missy the social worker in town if there are people that come to her with housing needs so that we’re aware of that. Woody’s idea was to contact the 6 churches here in Washington about assembling work teams, these are long term projects, typical project could be 5 years. We have to be persistent and in here for the long haul in order to see results.
4. **Review of Northwestern Connecticut Region Housing Council Meeting - Michelle Gorra** Each of the participating towns pay \$100 a year out of the housing line item budget. Many of the towns in Litchfield county are members as well. Daryl made a motion to pay this to the business office all in favor. The Regional Housing Council has people all over the northwest corner That gather to learn and share ideas. People who attend are mostly from housing trusts, people who are building the housing. They supported the summit that was hosted by the Litchfield Council Center for Housing Opportunity. People at the council meeting shared the progress on all the various projects that are happening.
5. **Report on Ribbon cutting at Habitat for Humanity project –** The project is on Myfield road in New Preston. They are putting in 2 new houses, Daryl is doing the electrical and other people are donating their services. We need more volunteers, Daryl has contacted the schools about seeing if some students would like to work on this project. We ran an announcement in the selectmen’s email for the new homeowner’s workshop that Habitat was running in New Milford in October. There were a few couples there that were from Washington. The couple that went to the ground breaking is ready to start their sweat equity.
6. **Update on work of the Zoning subcommittee on multi-family housing;** Woody and Judie have been attending, and they have been making some progress. The residential zone is the largest part of the total of our available land. There were voices saying what’s the use of including commercial zones as part of the area that would be acceptable for multifamily housing. Our commercial districts and town centers don’t have any land left. Ideally, we would like to allow it in the whole town. It could be a house that’s just turned into a duplex and it won’t destroy the fabric of this town. There is another subcommittee meeting Thursday at 5 at the town hall, all members are welcome to attend.

**7. New Business- none**

8. Visitors - none

9. Motion to adjourn at 6:25 made by Darryl and seconded by Woody. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Reale  
Selectmen's Assistant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iW18hRKfEbk>