

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Washington Housing Commission
Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2023- 5:30

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

1. Call to Order: 5:30

Members Present- Judie Gorra, Daryl Wright, Shane Mongar, Robert Woodrooffe, Henrietta Small, Carrie Loyd, Charles Jackson

Staff- Michelle Gorra

Public-Chris Charles, Lindsay Larson, Alan Fox

2. Motion to accept the minutes of Jan 10,2023- made by Darryl Wright, seconded by Shane Mongar, all voted in favor.

3. Old Business

- a. **Update on Baldwin hill property** - Lindsay Larson has been facilitating meetings with the Washington Community Housing trust, helping them to move along with the Baldwin Hill project. She writes up the minutes, and reports who is responsible for each task. As of now we aren't too far along. Mike Alex does have the deposit for doing the survey, supposedly he was going to get going on it last week. Bill Fairbairn contacted the soil scientist. She returned his call, and he is going to talk to her. We haven't heard back from him yet. The engineering firm won't do the soil samples until they have a survey. (the property is 4 acres mostly woods, depot side)

b. **Habitat for Humanity Workshop - Feb. 15, 2023**

The workshop will be on zoom as well as at the town hall. It's to help people to understand how they can purchase one of the houses, to understand if they would be eligible or not. Starts at 6:00PM. They have gotten good responses from people from Washington but a lot of people haven't met the criteria that they need.

c. **Report on North West Connecticut Regional Housing Council meeting 2/14**

Attended by councils, commissions, trusts who work on affordable housing in the northwest. Reported that the Governor has sent to the legislator in the budget requests of \$300 million for each of 2 years to go for affordable housing, \$150 million for new projects, the rest for rehab, hoping that goes through, might not help us here in our small towns.

- more than 9000 residents that are paying more than 50 percent of their income for housing.
- Building around the village center, getting employers in the area to support affordable housing financially.
- Haystack project- Has started construction
- Other members reported where they stand with their affordable housing projects, Canaan is going to have their first affordable rental housing.

d. Report on Connecticut Land Conservation Council conference 2/1

Michelle, Judie and Denise Arturi of Steep Rock attended. Land for conservation and land for affordable housing are not exclusive goals, you can do both on a piece of property and meet multiple goals.

- This was the CLCC Housing Summit- first time they have taken this housing approach.

e. Report on Zoning subcommittee re multifamily housing. - Judie and Woody have been working with zoning to develop some multifamily housing regulations which have not existed for many years in the town. Woody attended the last meeting- PA 21-29. They are suggesting allowing some multi-level family housing to be built in generally all of the land in Washington with a few exceptions. (exceptions would be the Green, New Preston village, and the area around the lake) any proposal will be required to come before the zoning commission with a site plan review. Our lawyer has outlined for the subcommittee there are 3 potential paths, the simplest is

- 1) "By right" submission fits all of the qualification, a bit more difficult would be
- 2) by site plan.
- 3) would be "special permit through public hearing" some of the committee favored the public hearing for any proposals for multi-family housing.

4. **New Business-** Did Meet with Jim about the budget

5. **Visitors-** none

6. Motion to adjourn at 6:20 made by Darryl seconded by Henrietta, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Reale
Selectmen's Assistant

Meeting recording can be found here.

<https://youtu.be/gqCfWXmp6WY>