

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Washington Housing Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2023, 5:30

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

1. Call to Order: 5:32

Members Present- Judie Gorra, Daryl Wright, Shane Mongar

Staff- Michelle Gorra

Public- Chris Charles, Lindsay Larson

2. Motion to accept the minutes of the Nov. 15, 2022 Made by Shane Mongar, seconded by Darryl Wright, all in favor.

3. Consideration of Calendar for 2023- Daryl Wright made a motion to accept the dates for the meetings, seconded by Shane Mongar, all in favor.

4. Habitat for Humanity - Received an email regarding the 2 new habitat houses, they will be able to be included in our affordable housing numbers!

a. Two new homes to be built and one occupied to be included in the number of affordable homes; As far as we know they don't have anyone that has been selected to live in these homes.

b. Ways to increase awareness of the project; We made some fliers. Daryl mentioned that he knew a couple who were interested in the homes but the paperwork process was so overwhelming that they backed out of it, now they're looking in other towns. The question now is; is there anyone in Habitat that can help them fill out the paperwork? Another thought would be Missy Brown, from Social Services could more than likely help out with the paperwork. The library, the liquor store, Martys, Nine Main would all be great spots to post these fliers.

c. Workshop to be presented by Habitat for Humanity in Washington- We did schedule the workshop for the 15th of February at 6:00pm. We'll make a flier and add this to the selectmen's email, and hand them out.

5. Report on North West Connecticut Regional Housing Council - Michelle Gorra attended the meeting. The purpose of the council is to create a forum for anyone working on affordable housing, to come together, have speakers, learn from each other and to get updates from one another. The council is reviewing the old by-laws and how the council functions. Their next meeting is on February 14th, virtual.

6. Discussion re Baldwin Hill Property- The survey by Mike Alex has not yet been done. A proposal for a feasibility study cannot be done without a survey. If Mike really can't get to this we could always try Cardinal; Lindsay Larson mentioned Bill was supposed to meet with the potential surveyor this week and would bring the proposal and get it signed so that it could be

brought to the town so the town can allocate the money. We already approved the money for the survey.

7. Informational meeting regarding donating land to the Washington Housing Trust with tax benefits. - The Commission wants to encourage people to consider donating land to the housing trust. Steep Rock put on a workshop to reach out to people who want to donate land, and it went well. It is a bit more difficult finding people who want to donate land to put homes on them opposed to keeping it in conservation.

8. Review of Housing Plan goals as it relates to the Washington Housing Commission- “What's our job as the Housing Commission?” One of the things is under Goal 1- #3: If a parcel has yet to be subdivided since 1955 the property owner can subdivide a lot for affordable housing as long as it meets public health codes; We need to make residents aware of this at least once a year- Daryl made the point that he doesn't think there are many lots left in town that fit this criterion. Goal 2 is the encouragement of “downsizing” options including duplexes, and townhouses. Judie and Woody serve on the zoning subcommittee working on developing regulations for multi-family housing. Goal 3- Support the development of affordable rental options for seniors and young people. Goal 4- Help Keep Seniors in Their Homes

9. Other business members wish to discuss – Discussing the budget, it shows, we had \$3,000 for printing. Misc.; \$250, The committee now has someone to do the minutes, so that's been paid out- Michelle mentioned she would recommend requesting more go into the Non-Recurring budget for Affordable Housing. Daryl mentioned it would be great to have a little extra money in case we need to hire someone and help facilitate different things. for example, to help fill out the Habitat forms. \$3,000 for education, member services. \$3,000 for printing. Judie will talk to Jim about a clerk who will help the committee follow up on things that need to be done.

10. Visitors - None

11.Motion to adjourn- at 6:39 made by Darryl all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Reale
Selectmen's Assistant

Meeting recording can be found here.

<https://youtu.be/XTqC-39cAA>