

October 15, 2007

Present: Liddy Adams, Don Brigham, Wayne Hileman, Jean Suddaby, Sue Werkhoven

Guests: None

Visitors: Chris Charles

Call to Order

Chairman Wayne Hileman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes of September 10

Sue Werkhoven moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Wayne Hileman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Updates

Housing Commission Visits In November, members will be touring some Woodbury senior housing facilities, one of which was developed through private funding, another through public funding.

As far as the visit to Cornwall, Wayne Hileman hasn't heard from its selectman yet.

Newsletter Wayne Hileman has submitted an article for the next Town newsletter on the Senior Survey Report's recommendations.

Senior Survey Wayne Hileman has spoken to a couple of newspaper reporters who, after the elections are over, would be interested in interviewing him about the Washington Senior Survey Report.

Discussion of Long Range Plan

Members discussed Don Brigham's handout of recommendations for the Housing Commission to consider when developing long range plans and guidelines. Suggestions included a "review of affordable housing alternatives including limited equity housing, purchase of existing homes under \$400000, further consideration of Valerie Anderson's proposal, the concept of scattered versus cluster housing, and financing alternatives, such as state grants in conjunction with farmland development and preservation".

In addition, Don thought that an attempt should be made at forecasting Washington's ability to meet the 10 percent affordability requirement in order to preclude developers overriding town zoning regulations.

To gather data, Don recommended the Housing Commission meet with other Commissions as well as with various organizations, such as the Farmland Preservation Committee.

Members felt strongly that their focus should be on what Washington's citizens felt were current and future housing needs, including affordable housing. The Housing Commission could provide relevant data and research to make this process more practical. For example, the data from the Senior Survey indicated that many seniors wanted more downsizing choices. Now debates among the commissions and townspeople could proceed to what and where these choices should be.

In collecting data, the Housing Commission members brainstormed some categories to use in tracing past, current, and projected figures, such as population and build out numbers. Other categories included school enrollment, fire department membership, number of people who work in town and the percentage who also live there, and property values. Members tentatively agreed that the starting point for this data collection could be right after the 1955 flood.

Adjournment

Sue Werkhoven moved to adjourn the meeting. Wayne Hileman seconded the motion which was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

The November 19, 2007 regularly scheduled meeting of The Washington Housing Commission

has been cancelled due to the absence of a quorum. In its place, The Housing Commission will be conducting an out-of-town investigation of Senior Housing options on November 7, 2007.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Housing Commission will take place on Monday, December 10, 2007 at 5p.m in the Land Use Room of Bryan Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Patte Doran
