

**Sheffield Housing Commission
Minutes of meeting
January 18 2012**

The Sheffield Housing Commission met at the Sheffield Town Hall on January 18 2012 at 7:30 pm
Members present were: Marilyn Wightman, Michael Citrin , John Stookey, Kathy Orlando and Paul O'Brien.

Call to order: Michael Citrin brought the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of October 20th 2011 and November 16th were approved as submitted

Unfinished business : Chairman Citrin began our meeting by reviewing the meeting of 16 November 2012. The Housing Commission was pleased with the turnout and the participants interest in the new bylaw. Chairman Citrin expressed his appreciation for the involvement of the building inspector Thomas Carmody and Planning Board member Maggie Martin.

New business: Chairman Citrin reported on his meeting with the Housingus organization (Chairman Citrin is a member of their board, please see the Berkshire Taconic Foundation at <http://www.berkshiretaconic.org/housing/>) telling the Commission that Housingus has information that is of value to our work, he agreed to keep us apprised of their work. Housingus has been looking into a revolving fund , or a microloan approach to assist homeowners interested in creating accessory apartments. Chairman Citrin suggested that the Commission look into grant opportunities to assist Sheffield residents in their desire to create accessory apartments. It was suggested that Jocelyn Ayer and Jennifer Dowley (Housingus) would be excellent resources for our pursuit of funding ideas. Kathy Orlando discussed the Community Preservation Act and the potential use of funds associated with this program, for more information on this program please see <http://www.communitypreservation.org/> . In addition Kathy mentioned that the Community Development Block grant may be a resource for the Commission to look at, for more information on this opportunity please see <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/massachusetts/community/cdbg> . John Stookey suggested that it would be a good idea to make an assessment of the number of accessory apartments, rental units etc in Sheffield to give the Commission an idea of the "housing stock" in the town. Potential resources for this information could come from town data, the Sheffield master plan and census data, please see <http://www.census.gov/cbdmap/> for census data , click on the interactive map after choosing the appropriate tab at the top. In order to assist the Commission in their quest for data Chairman Citrin agreed to contact Jocelyn Ayer, Marilyn Wightman agreed to contact the Sheffield Town Clerk and John Stookey agreed to contact Jennifer Dowley of Housingus . Each of them will share their discussions at the next meeting.

Adjourn : The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm

The next meeting will be held on February 15 2012

Respectfully submitted Paul O'Brien