

**Sheffield Housing Commission
Minutes of meeting
February 15th 2012**

The Sheffield Housing Commission met at the Sheffield Town Hall on February 15th 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 January 18 2012 were approved as submitted

Unfinished business : Chairman Citrin opened the meeting by announcing the HousingUs annual meeting- scheduled for 29 February 2012. In addition, Chairman Citrin made note of a potential resource for the Housing Commission-The Woman's Institute for Housing and Economic Development (<http://www.wihed.org/>), he has been in touch with Kathryn Shafer (kshafer@wihed.org 800-720-1195 x 202). John Stookey reported that he has been in touch with Jennifer Dowley of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation concerning funding /resource opportunities for citizens of Sheffield who are considering an accessory apartment. Salisbury Bank is available to work with individuals interested in creating accessory apartments in the area (loans etc). John will contact Jocelyn Ayer about the Salisbury Bank opportunities.

New business: Kathy Orlando discussed the Community Land Trust in the Southern Berkshires work on the Chase family farmhouse on Bow Wow Road, the rehabilitation of the farmhouse may include an accessory apartment. This type of project is an excellent example of many people and organizations coming together to restore an aging structure, and at the same time have the foresight to include an accessory apartment in their design work. The Housing Commission enthusiastically agreed to help this project along in any way that they are able to.

The Housing Commission reviewed information from state and federal sources concerning housing data in Sheffield. John Stookey will provide the Commission with data on actual house values in the South Berkshire area. This data, along with the state and federal data, will be part of the "data snapshot" the Housing Commission is compiling. The "data snapshot" will assist the Housing Commission in their future work for the town. From the preliminary review of the data it appears that approximately 2.5% of the housing in Sheffield is comprised of rental units, if this data is correct, it reinforces the need for additional rental units, especially Accessory Apartments.

Adjourn : The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm, Next meeting will be held on 3/ 21 /2012

Respectfully submitted Paul O'Brien