



Office of the
Townsend Housing Authority
272 Main St., Townsend, MA. 01469

Laura E Shifrin, Chairman (2021)

Kevin Smith, General Member (2018)

Susan Congdon, Clerk (2019)

BetteAnn Coleman, Tenant Member (2020)

Chaz Sexton-Diranian, State Representative (2022)

2017 Annual Report

A bit of history about who we are: the THA was organized in 1984 and operates under 760 CMR 4.00 and its amendments and certain related definitions. One of the purposes of the THA is to facilitate the Town of Townsend's goal to reach an equitable number of affordable housing units pursuant to state mandates. Toward this goal, the THA is researching the best use of the town's developable resources and seeking state and federal funding where possible. With several projects already being built thus far, as of December 2014, the Town's affordable housing inventory is currently 150 units or 4.5%. The state requires each town in Massachusetts to have at least 10% of their total housing units to be affordable to moderate and low-income households. Therefore, the THA is looking to increase our affordable housing units to remain congruent with Townsend's Housing Production Plan approved by the Department of Housing and Community Development in 2015.

The Town of Townsend owns land that was deeded to the Town "to assist the needy" formally known as the Atwood Farm. This land was subsequently utilized and developed into a major project, currently in its third phase, that the THA has been working on since its inception. Phase one of this endeavor was a 50 Unit facility for residents age 62 and older or disabled named Atwood Acres built with 40B funding and is currently run by a management company. The second phase, Townsend Woods, consists of 36 units solely for senior housing located behind the previously built facility also built with 40B funding and run by the same management company.

At this present time, we are earmarking an approximate 2-3-acre parcel of land that would be the 3rd phase our 11 + acres parcel of Town owned land. Our current vision is to develop a multi-unit main building designed for aging in place, low-income housing for veterans that would also provide space for connected services. We are also looking at combining this facility with cluster townhouse type units earmarked for families of Veterans who need low-income housing and services. We are also looking to partner with several state and federal agencies to address other necessary services like transportation to medical resources and on-site invisible injury assistance.

Accessory Apartment Bylaw is something the THA wholeheartedly supports and encourages town voters to pass in 2018.

2017 was a definite challenge for the THA. We lost any type of staff assistance when Karen Chapman resigned to move to a new chapter in her life with MRPC. We wish her all the best with her future endeavors. Her contributions to the advancement of our affordable housing count and assistance has been irreplaceable.

Mission: "To promote, maintain and provide housing opportunities for income groups who could not otherwise afford to live here."



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On the plus side we are finally a full board of elected and appointed officials. State Representative Chaz Sexton-Diranian was appointed by the State and sworn into office in October and by December the position of Appointed Tenant Resident was sworn in as BetteAnn Coleman took her place on our

board. In addition to the 2 appointed positions, we are made up of 3 elected officials; Laura E Shifrin as Chair, Susan Congdon as Clerk and Kevin Smith as general member.

Our Agendas and minutes are posted on our town website and updated solely by our members currently without an appointed Town staff member. Also, our meetings have been regularly videotaped and posted on the Town's channel on YouTube by the Town's IT personnel. We expect, encourage and look forward to Town resident participation at all our future meetings.