

REPORT OF THE WENHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY  
2012

The Wenham Housing Authority saw the retirement of Executive Director, Marian Linden in mid-August. Ms. Linden served the Wenham Housing Authority and its residents since December 2002. Paula Mountain was hired as Executive Director and started in September. Ms. Mountain came to the housing authority with many years of housing experience. Prior to coming to Wenham, Ms. Mountain was serving as the Executive Director of the West Newbury Housing Authority.

The Board of Commissioners, with the assistance of the Executive Director is responsible for the administration of Enon Village; the complex for the elderly/disabled on Larch Lane and the two four-bedroom houses for disabled adults also on Larch Lane. The Wenham Housing Authority works closely with Town authorities. Four of the five Commissioners on the Board are elected at Town Meeting. Each of the elected commissioners serves a five year term; these terms are staggered. The fifth Commissioner is appointed by the Governor.

Both the elderly complex at Enon Village and the two houses for disabled adults were built with state funds. However, the elderly housing complex receives no operating subsidy from the state and is self-sufficient in that it relies solely on rents for its operation. The state occasionally awards grants for specific projects.

The disabled housing is leased to the Massachusetts Department of Development Services which pays a monthly rent to the Housing Authority. In return for the rent, the Housing Authority provides assistance from its Executive Director and the Maintenance Mechanic and is responsible for capital maintenance. The Department of Developmental Services provides the staff for the residents' needs and undertakes preventative maintenance of the buildings. The rents received from the Dept. of Developmental Services are set by the Commonwealth.

**In 2010, The Department of Housing and Community Development awarded \$188,728.00 in Formula Funding to the Housing Authority to be spent over 5 years for capital improvements.** This was the first funding the Commonwealth had awarded since 2000. The award is both for the elderly housing and disabled housing. A drainage improvement project at a cost of \$25,000 was completed in 2011; and in 2012 a sidewalk repair project was completed at a cost of \$20,000. Each project was done through Formula Funding money.

Both the tenants of the disabled residences and the elderly/disabled benefit from beautiful grounds at Larch Lane which are maintained by the maintenance staff of the housing authority. Enon Village Tenants also contribute to the beautification of the grounds through their flower planting and gardening. Each tenant who desires a garden plot is assigned one. Additionally, plots are available to seniors in Wenham and Hamilton

depending on availability. There is also a garden and pumpkin patch adjacent to the disabled residences.

### **Enon Village Elderly/Disabled Housing**

Anyone interested in elderly/disabled housing must complete a standard application and have an income below \$45,500 for one person and \$52,000 for two people. A waiting list is maintained with current residents of Wenham receiving a preference. Rent is calculated on 30% of gross income with utilities included.

The Council on Aging's van service is well-utilized by the tenants at Enon Village. The Housing Authority and the COA sponsor YOGA classes for Wenham seniors held at Enon Village on Tuesday mornings. On Friday afternoons BINGO is also well attended.

Once again, we express our appreciation to the Police, Fire and Highway departments for their continued concern and care on behalf of the Enon Village residents. The Executive Director works with the WSSH Committee, the Accord Food Pantry, Senior Care and other agencies to ensure that tenants have access to needed social services

The Board of Commissioners meets 12 times per year on the second Tuesday of the month in the community building at Enon Village.

If anyone is interested in visiting the facilities at Larch Lane or has questions, please contact the Executive Director at 468-1532.

Elizabeth Armington, Chairperson  
Bruce Blanchard, Vice- Chairperson  
Jean Rouse, Commissioner  
Donald Luxton, Commissioner  
Elizabeth Craig-McCormack, State-Appointee

Paula Mountain, Exec. Director  
Christopher Cerino, Maintenance  
James Prime, Groundskeeper  
Marie DiPietro, Admin. Assistant