

REPORT OF THE WENHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY  
2014

The Board of Commissioners along with Paula Mountain, the Executive Director, are responsible for the administration of Enon Village at the Wenham Housing Authority; the complex for the elderly/disabled on Larch Lane and two four-bedroom houses for disabled adults also on Larch Lane. The Wenham Housing Authority also 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. 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 Eliot Community Human Services, Inc. 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. Eliot Community Human Services, Inc. provides the staff for the residents' needs and undertakes preventative maintenance of the buildings. The rent received from Eliot Community Human Services, Inc. is 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.** As a result of this funding several projects were completed in 2014. The disabled houses at 85 & 86 Larch Lane were completely rehab in a turn over for new tenants. Both houses received a complete internal painting at a cost of \$13,564; both the buildings at Enon Village and 85 & 86 Larch Lane are in the process of completing the replacement of some of the 60 plus external door, 22 doors were replaced at a cost of approximately \$63,000 of which \$30,000 came directly from the WHA operating reserves. An additional award through the 2014 Health and Safety Initiative was also received in the amount of \$11,000 which allowed additional sidewalk construction at unit 14, the repair of a catch basin and the construction of a paved area surrounding the dumpster and recycling shed. Outside of the formula funding the WHA completed with its own funds the complete re-stripping of the entire complex at a cost of \$3,295 and the installation of 8 external storm doors for all 4 handicapped/barrier free units at a cost of \$2,200

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. There are 24 garden plots available to tenant's who register for one. This is done on a first come basis. If after a one (1) month

sign up period for our tenant's there are any plots available they are opened up to seniors in Wenham and Hamilton community depending on availability. The tenants have also constructed a horseshoe pit area which sees much activity.

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

Anyone interested in elderly/disabled housing must complete a standard application and have an income below \$47,450 for one person and \$54,200 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, 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 Thursday of the month in the community building at Enon Village at 7:00 PM.

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

Don Luxton, Chairperson  
Bruce Blanchard, Vice- Chairperson  
Jean Rouse, Commissioner  
Arthur Burt, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Craig-McCormack, State-Appointee, Vice Treasurer

Paula Mountain, Executive Director  
Christopher Cerino, Maintenance  
David Mollica, Groundskeeper  
Jessica Sadoway, Admin. Assistant