

**Town of Belgrade**  
**Board of Selectpersons**  
March 19, 2019 / 6:30pm  
Belgrade Town Office  
990 Augusta Road, Belgrade ME 04917

**A G E N D A**

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance  
*Open Meeting*

**1. OLD BUSINESS**

- a.
- b.

**2. New Business**

- a. Election of Board Chair
- b. Letter from Community Concepts

**3. Warrant**

**4. Town Manager**

**5. Other**

**6.**



March 5, 2019

240 Bates Street  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
795-4065

Dear Town Manager/Selectmen,

17 Market Sq.  
S. Paris, ME 04281  
(207) 743-7716  
Fax: 739-6012

Community Concepts, with 50+ years' experience offering housing resources to very low income people, has applied to the USDA- Rural Development for funds to assist low income families achieve the dream of homeownership through our 523 Self-Help Homeownership program.

Community Concepts will utilize the USDA-Rural Development funds to assist families to build their own homes by working with other families to meet the required labor commitment. Community Concepts plans to build homes throughout the Maine counties of Androscoggin, Oxford, Franklin, Cumberland, and Kennebec. The Self-Help Homeownership program has assisted over 330 families to realize not only affordable homeownership, but by adopting the theme "neighbors helping neighbors", they truly are invested within the communities in which they live.

We must show USDA-Rural Development that area towns continue to identify a need for homeownership opportunities within our service area. We are asking you to take a moment to send us a letter supporting our application. Attached is a sample format letter for you to use, if you wish. **I ask that you please return your letter to me by April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Please mail it to:**

**Community Concepts, Inc.  
ATTN: Suzy Huard  
17 Market Square  
South Paris ME 04281**

Community Concepts' Self-Help Homeownership Program is a major success in part because of the commitment of local towns that provide referrals and community support to the citizens. We thank you for joining our mission to "build opportunities for a better tomorrow."

If you would like further information, please call me at 739-6517.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzy Huard", is written over a printed name.

Suzy Huard  
Housing & Energy Support Specialist II

## **YOUR TOWN LETTERHEAD**

### **SAMPLE LETTER**

Sandy Albert, Director of Housing Improvement Services  
Community Concepts, Inc.  
17 Market Square  
South Paris, ME 04281

Dear Sandy:

It has come to our attention that you are applying for funding from USDA-Rural Development to assist families to own their own homes through the Section 523 Self-Help Homeownership program.

According to a report from the Housing Assistance Council, “The federal government standard says people shouldn’t have to pay more than 30 percent of their income for their housing. However, 5.5 million rural households are paying more than that.” The State of Maine housing figures mirror the national rural figures in that Maine families are typically paying more than 30% of their income towards their housing costs. The Self-Help Homeownership program is one of the best means for rural low-income families to achieve the dream of owning a home of their own.

Community Concepts has assisted over 330 families to own their own homes through the Self-Help Homeownership program. This program is a great example of Community Concepts’ mission of “building opportunities for a better tomorrow”.

I support your application for financial assistance from the USDA-Rural Development 523 Self-Help Homeownership Program.

Sincerely,