

Affordable Housing Trust
Tuesday, February 4th, 2020 – 6:00 PM
Library Room, Harwich Town Hall
732 Main Street, Harwich
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Howell, Chair, Larry Brophy, Vice Chair, Brendan Lowney, Clerk and Judith Underwood.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Joe Powers, Interim Town Administrator.

OTHERS PRESENT: Art Bodin, Joe McParland, Jr., Cindi Maule, Mary Maslowski
Andrea Aldana, Community Development Partnership, Charleen Greenhalgh, Town Planner.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mr. Howell.

Public Meeting

The Affordable Housing Trust invited the Affordable Housing Committee to a joint meeting as required annually in the Trust's statute. Mr. Howell began a discussion regarding delineation of roles between the Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) and the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC). Mr. Howell provided an AHT update and emphasized the importance of reviewing the Housing Production Plan annually in addition to the need for an ongoing discussion between the AHC and the AHT. He sees an important advocacy role for the AHC. He recommended that the AHC also think about what the AHT role should be.

Mr. Bodin stated the AHC's desire for an enhanced role. Mr. Bodin presented document sourced from the Town of Orleans about how their housing committee and trust work together. Mr. Howell explained the history of how the AHC charge was developed. He continued to report on the community's housing need related to "little a", naturally occurring lower end market rate housing and "capital A", subsidized housing. Ms. Maule expressed challenges within the AHC's advisory role.

Ms. Greenhalgh pointed out examples of potential AHC activities such as identifying suitable land for development, increasing accessory dwelling unit production and revising multi-zoning bylaws. Ms. Underwood stated that as opportunities move forward, it is critical to work together with key stakeholders. Mr. MacParland found the Orleans guidelines very interesting and stated his frustration with the AHC not having any specific tasks to work on. Mr. Howell assured the AHC that moving forward, there will be more joint conversations.

There was a discussion regarding how Mr. Bodin advises his committee and what they have been working on. There was a consensus that it would be the Board of Selectmen providing policy advice to the AHC. Mr. Howell provided information on the Trust's current activities including the Action Plan and how the AHC would be involved. Ms. Maslowski mentioned the importance

of the revitalizing Harwich Center. A discussion ensued between the AHC and the AHT on housing, town center and how both groups can work together to meet housing needs.

Other Business:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.