

Fair Housing Committee
Minutes for 9/17/2015
Mimi Hollister, Scribe

Present: Jim Viperman, Chair, Judy Gates, Raquel Moscarelli, Don Davies, Lou Meyi, Alex Finigan, Andrew Hare, Mimi Hollister

The web site update was discussed. Main points: open with bragging rights but then move to the most important information which is to simulate the process, step-by-step, when someone wants to move to Marblehead in affordable housing; need honesty and accuracy about what actually is available here right up front and how long the wait list is for Housing Authority rentals – concrete and fair and honest. **Alex will re-send a draft. Judy and Raquel and Andrew will help with adding the concrete process and what the important links are to include, with an explanation of what each link is about.**

How to be more visible – look at what other communities have done.

Survey – went out with the first pay check in September, we believe. Tom McGinn, Town Administrator, sent an email explaining the survey. They will have to be mailed back to the FHC box at Abbot Hall. **Jim will pick them up periodically. We will need follow-up.**

Raquel suggested that we need a 1,2,3 focus to our work as we look to reporting to the Selectmen. Jim asked each to suggest what their focus would be.

Raquel: 1)inventory of affordable housing in town 2)P.R. awareness campaign 3) website update.

Don Davies and Judy Gates and Lou Meyi added a focus on more diversity – cultural and economic. Lou added that we need to put it to the Selectmen that we need their support. Andrew suggested connecting more with some of the other town organizations such as the Counseling Center and the Housing Authority.

Alex liked all the suggestions and really wanted concrete objectives.

Discussion about Selectmen's creation of the Smart Growth Committee to promote 40R activity. Our response: the YMCA property got bought by the bank for a parking lot and the Vinnin Square property is still in limbo with the developer. Ask the Selectmen to give us another do-able 40R possibility and we will run with it. This raised the Beacon St. property issue. Becky Cutting said the Cemetery Commission expressed interest and they would have priority over us. Question: should we not challenge that to the Selectmen on grounds of not viable to dig into ledge for graves and affordable housing more important. Shouldn't we take the initiative? Result: **Jim will talk with Andrew deFranza of Harbor Light and Kurt James about a possible approach to the Selectmen, since Andrew has experience with reluctant towns.**

Next meeting: October 15, 7:00 pm at Community Center.