

FHC Minutes, 11-17-16

Mimi Hollister, Scribe

Present: Mark Podgur, Ben Day, Ann Cohen, Mimi Hollister, Chair, Don Gardner, guest

Minutes were approved.

Internship ideas: Mimi reported that Becky Cutting had not responded to her emails asking for input on a workable process for securing office space and a computer for an intern from Salem State, which are requirements. **Mimi will continue to pursue this with Becky.** It was the consensus that having an intern could be a very helpful addition to our work.

Highlands closings: Mark reported that the unit that was in foreclosure has closed and the other one should be soon. **Mark will get details for Mimi to write a press release on this accomplishment that will include public education on how securing affordable housing works.**

MAPC and State funding for a long-range housing study of the town: Kurt James is too busy just now to pursue this. Becky Cutting is key in the process. **Mimi will talk further with her about proceeding.**

Kurt notified us that the state tax credit for donated properties for affordable housing has indeed passed and now awaits further definition – a resource for the future.

Connections website “Marbleheadhousing.org”: Don Davies had emailed that this website, created long ago, needs to be either dropped or renewed with someone to keep it up to date and with fees attached. After discussion, it was reluctantly agreed that the town website is the more often used one and that we don’t need two with the same information. **Mimi will ask Alex Finigan to look at both and work on combining/adding to the town site what is helpful from the other.** Alex is largely in New York this winter but sometimes in town and could consult with Don Davies if needed in this work.

Discussion about recruiting new members: we may schedule a meeting date, perhaps February, when interested folk could come and we could present an overview of FHC. A Reporter article, suggesting some of the skills needed – **Mimi will get on this. Don Gardner and Ann Cohen will approach Jim Nye and Bret Murray to see if one or both would consider becoming a member or at least an active Selectman representative.** We also need a realtor.

Meeting adjourned. **Next meeting is December 15, 2016 at 7 pm at Community Center.**