

Mimi Hollister, Chair and Scribe

Present: Andrew Hare, Ann Cohen, Ben Day, Mark Podgur, Mimi Hollister – Members

Lou Meyi, Don Gardner and Frank Evans – Guests

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

- Frank Evans was introduced and welcomed as a potential new member of the committee. He is currently a realtor with Harborside. His professional experience includes labor law, family and residential real estate development, and philanthropic fund raising. He plans to compose his letter to the Selectmen requesting to be appointed to this committee.
- Mimi and Ann and Mark reported on the meeting with Becky Cutting and John McGinn. John said that Town Counsel is still working on the possibility of directing old town Trust Funds to our cause. No date possible for when that might be completed. Becky has office space and computer on Widger Road that could be used for an intern, who would be supervised by Becky as well as our committee. It was their counsel that we should proceed with applying for an intern and begin to create a town study format, using the Scituate model that we have agreed is a good one. When we asked about town properties such as the Eveleth School and the plot across from the Community Store on West Shore Drive, they said that nothing can be considered about those properties, which are owned by the School Board, until the decisions about the Gerry School are completed – at least a year away.
- A communication from Kurt James was noted: that Harborlight is looking for a multi-unit (3 to 4 units) building in Marblehead to buy. They need to re-finance the Sewall Building and if they could secure another similar property in Marblehead for affordable rental units, they would be qualified for and able to raise public funds to finance the two together.
- It was agreed that we should go ahead and fill out the application for an intern. **Mimi will spearhead this.**
- It was agreed that we should each read the Scituate model of their town study before the next meeting and come with questions/comments. **Further discussion led us to conclude that to do a useful and complete study, we need a professional. Mimi will confer with Becky further** about a possible MAPC grant for such a study to which the town could contribute the 5% of HOME Funds allowed for administration – about \$2,000. Also, we should talk with Scituate about the cost and administration of their study. **Frank agreed to call them to get a better feel for this.**

- Right after the meeting, Lou suggested contacting Jim Bishop, the Marblehead rep on MAPC. **Mimi will do this.**

It was agreed that behind-the-scenes work with the Selectmen is best so when we do an article for the Reporter, it needs to be affirming and invitational for the support of the town and not confrontational.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting is April 20, 7:00 at the Community Center.