

Fair Housing Committee Minutes
September 28, 2017
Mimi Gardner, Scribe

Present: Mimi Gardner, Chair, Frank Evans, Debra Larkin, Ann Cohen, Mark Podgur,
Guests: Lou Meyi, Don Gardner, Karl Renney, Ben Day

Minutes accepted.

Debra Larkin, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, was welcomed as a new member. Karl Renney was introduced as a potential and interested member. He is the Community Reinvestment Officer for Eastern Bank. He will be submitting his letter of interest to the Selectmen. Ben Day has stepped down because not a Marblehead resident but he continues to be interested. Ann Cohen has agreed to officially step off the committee if another person emerges who represents the designated town interests.

Conversation about the resale unit available at Marblehead Highlands.

Action items: **Mark Podgur will stay in touch with Avi Galzer**, the CHAPA-appointed realtor for this unit to see if he needs help marketing it. He will also invite Avi to a FHC meeting.

Karl asked if there is a way to contact town employees when units are available – **Mimi will follow up with John McGinn and also about putting a notice on the front page of the town website when an affordable unit is available.**

Report on Kurt James's conversation with Ted Moore: Kurt asked Ted about the possibility of converting affordable units to rentals if Harborlight would manage that for them. Ted was not interested as he feels renters are not as invested in their property as owners. He did note that he is planning to develop another 40B on the remaining property which would add 12 affordable units to the inventory.

Selectmen suggestions:

Letters to residents – **Ann, Frank and Lou will work on a social event** with letters of invitation to the residents. Frank will check about holding it at the Sotheby's office.

Website update and upkeep – **Mimi will pursue this.**

Fund raising ideas – agreed that our capacity is pretty limited in terms of securing grants if there is no local town financial support.

Officer elections – this will be postponed so that newer members can get a better feel for the committee and its work.

Other:

Frank will check with Kurt about the minimum size of multi-unit rentals that come on the market that Harborlight would be interested in.

Lou brought copies of the "Community Compact" document that Governor Baker created for towns in the Commonwealth and Marblehead has signed on to certain commitments. They

include some climate change adaptation issues; digitizing paper records; and doing a cyber security assessment, for which the state will give technical support if needed. Lou suggested that we ask the Selectmen, once they have met the needs and commitments of these three areas, to consider Community Compact Best Practices that relate to fair and affordable housing. The details of all this can be found on the Mass. government website under community compact.

Next meeting is October 19, 7 pm at the Community Center in the craft room.