

Fair Housing Minutes, 1/16/2020  
Mimi Hollister, Scribe

Present: Frank Evans, Chair, Debbie Larkin, Teri McDonough, Joe Whipple, Katie Farrell, Mimi Hollister

Minutes were approved.

Copies of the Housing Production Plan suggested strategies were handed out for review. Members were interested in the whole document and that will be sent when we get it from Alex Koppelman, the MAPC staff working with us.

Discussion about Section 8 housing and the pros and cons for landlords who comply: strict rules but also guaranteed income – no default from renters. Renters may lose vouchers over time. Some Section 8 inspectors are unreasonably harsh for the landlord.

There is a 5 year timeline for implementing the HPP recommendations. The Selectmen Committee will continue with likely additional members. Fair Housing will be represented and our part in the implementation will be determined. Likely more educational of the public about the value of affordable housing, reaching out to current residents, and whatever else the committee assigns. Katie will check on the status of the soon-to-be vacant school properties. They are top priority for creating affordable housing. Frank will keep us posted on the next HPP report to the Selectmen and Planning Board.

Mimi will go through old FHC documents and send relevant ones to the whole committee to better understand the history.

March FHC meeting will be a tutorial with Kurt James and Kristen Kellom of Harborlight. At the February meeting we will create questions that we hope they will address.