

Fair Housing Committee Minutes, February 20, 2020

Mimi Hollister, Scribe

Present: Frank Evans, Chair; Debra Larkin, Katie Farrell, Joe Whipple, Karl Renney

Guests: Lou Meyi and Dirk Isbrandtsen

Introductions were made, especially Dirk who chaired this committee for many years.

Minutes approved.

We looked at the Housing Production Plan draft report of recommendations. Frank noted that #8 about **educating the public** is easy because we already have all the materials for a power point. Lou noted that the MHTV program called “Perspectives on Life” already has information from the HPP study through Teri McDonough’s reporting on the need for affordable housing and is being aired through February. Joe suggested creating a succinct “door hanger” for every house in town about findings from the study. Presentations could be made to the Rotary Clubs and neighborhood associations and any other organizations. Information about such things as co-housing could be helpful and it was noted that Teri McDonough had mentioned knowing of private facilitators. **Katie will follow up with Teri.**

Much discussion about our responsibilities vis a vis the Town Committee and staff. We agreed that we need a long-term plan with goals and objectives and a vision. Most of the HPP recommendations have town staff as the lead in implementing. Dirk had suggestions: How can we help them is a good approach. Do they want our help? When he was chair, they went to the town to get support and to the Selectmen. (There was more state money available then.) Are we to be the ones overseeing the implementing of goals and strategies? The list is long. Karl pointed out that the ending of the HPP must lead to what’s next. It should result in 1 or 2 properties to focus on – get the town to buy in and get a developer – map out a plan. Are we the ones to do that – won’t know until after the final presentation to the Selectmen and Planning Board by Alex from MAPC.

Discussion about the Affordable Housing Trust Fund: fund raising is important. If we have goals, objectives, vision, we can go to bank foundations and ask for money, for example. In the old days there was an Affordable Housing Corporation that carried out the work and had a budget. We need to understand better about all that going forward.

Finally, **we looked to the March meeting** when Kurt James will come and answer any questions we have about any of this going forward. And Kristen Kellom from Harborlight will give us a sense of how they operate and how they might be involved with us.

Many questions. Much organizing and planning needed. After the final HPP meeting and our March meeting, we will be more able to develop a strategy for moving forward. **Assignment: think of questions for Kurt – anything at all about this committee and its work - email them to mimi.hollister@aol.com and she will compile them and email them to the whole committee before the next meeting.**

Next meeting: March 19, 7 pm at the Community Center