

Fair Housing Committee Minutes, April 22, 2021
Mimi Hollister, Scribe

Present: Debby Larkin and Dirk Isbrandtsen, Co Chairs; Mimi Hollister; Frank Evans;
Guest: Kathy Green, prospective member

No quorum so previous minutes could not be approved.

Kathy Green was introduced: staff at National Grand Bank for 30 years, working her way up to Assistant Vice- President of Mortgage Lending Department, her current position. She has worked with CHAPA and is familiar with affordable housing projects from the past. She will write a letter to the Selectmen and take the Conflict of Interest Test soon to become a member, replacing Karl Renney whose term expires in May and he does not wish to continue.
A copy of the Housing Production Plan will be sent to her.

Update on Housing Production Plan Implementation Committee: Kurt James and Dirk Isbrandtsen are Fair Housing representatives on the Committee. Teri McDonough and Lou Meyi are also on the committee representing other interests as well as ours. They met recently and drafted a survey to prioritize key elements of the 5-year HPP plan. The sites in town that were highlighted were school properties and vacant or underutilized areas. The results of the survey will be discussed at their next meeting, which has not yet been set.

Responses to several communications: Debby wrote to the Selectmen about an Equal Opportunities Officer. Kyle Wiley told her that this letter would likely be taken up at the next Selectman's meeting and Kyle would get back to Debby on that.

Dirk communicated with Jason Silva about the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and learned that there is now about \$170,000 in it. After Town Meeting, there should be about another \$40,000 into it from a share of house foreclosures. Dirk has asked to be on the Board of Trustees and the process for that will continue when he is home for the summer.

Debby wrote a letter to the Selectmen regarding our interest in the school property across from the Community Store. This will also likely be on the agenda for the next Selectman's meeting. Frank reported talking with a Conservancy member who said that some kids in town want to build a skateboard park there and include a bike trail. Some parents are going ahead with clearing stumps.

Teri sent a message for the meeting that she had connected with Becky Cutting and Kevin Hurley and Lisa Green in the Peabody office about Home Funds. She learned that they are not available for fuel subsidies but Kevin was very helpful and encouraged us to apply for grants for specific projects in the future.

She also spoke with Becky Cutting about Ted Moore's 40B Sailmaker project. Becky has asked for an update and not yet received one.

Interest in the Vinnin Square property that has been vacant for many years now has emerged. A developer has a proposal that would include 12 units of affordable housing for Marblehead. The area is zoned for a 40R project and is shared with Salem and Swampscott, both of whom approved this use some years ago. Becky Cutting reported on this to Kurt James.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be Thursday, May 20, 7 pm.