

Fair Housing Committee Minutes
January 26, 2023

Members Present: Thatcher Kezer, Town Administrator (chair); Becky Cutting, Town Planner; Erin Noonan, Select Board; John Whipple, Task Force Against Discrimination Rep.; Katie Farrell, Disabilities Commission Rep; Teri McDonough, Housing Authority and Counseling Center Rep.; Debra Larkin, Mimi Hollister, At Large Reps.

Meeting Convened on Zoom at 7 pm.

Debra Larkin voted as Vice-Chair and Mimi Hollister as Secretary, unanimously

Goals Discussion

- 1) Role of the HPPIC (Housing Production Plan Implementation Committee) was determined to be the carrying out of the Fair Housing Committee's recommendations
- 2) Role of the FHC near-term:
Updating the website, especially to include tenant-based rental assistance and counseling information. Collaborate with Council on Aging to disseminate information.

Creating a realistic list of opportunities and prioritizing possibilities. Current focus on the Vinnin Square development that includes 11 rental units and the Sailmaker Pl. condos that includes 12 affordable units.

Taking advantage of Mass Housing grants and Home Consortium ARPA Funds and new possibilities with the current state government's focus on affordable housing.

Education of the public about the value of developing affordable housing; why we are an MBTA community and its value as a smart growth initiative; why adding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) is good for Marblehead. Using Harbor Homes (formerly Harborlight) website for affordable housing education.

Hosting speakers from Northshore Consortium; presentations from 40B developers on setting affordability standards.

Collaboration with Marblehead Housing Authority.

Make recommendations to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board in collaboration with the HPPIC.

3) Future possibilities: Coffin School property, identified by the HPP as the best resource for affordable housing, when/if the School Committee decides to turn it over to the town. To prepare for that, we should proceed with an RFI (Request for Information) from developers and then a RFP (Request for Proposal). Likely timing for Town Warrant Article is 2024.

Beacon St. Property is temporarily a bike park with the agreement that we can proceed with affordable housing there when the time comes.

Invitation for Community Engagement

Invitation received from Kathy Hempel, Chair of the Marblehead Democratic Town Committee, to create a panel that would promote on-going interest in affordable housing in Marblehead, including information about up-coming projects.

Suggested panelists were Becky Cutting to represent the Planning Board and its ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) article on the Town Warrant, Erin Noonan from the Select Board as lead contact person for this committee, Teri McDonough to represent the social service piece and Cathy Hoog for Housing Authority.

Public Comment

Bonnie Grenier, Observer for the League of Women Voters, spoke of the League's plan to develop a committee to study affordable housing. She volunteered collaboration with this committee over time.

Renee Ramirez Keaney applauds this committee's education efforts and, as an Adjunct Professor of Social Work and Senior Field Education Specialist at Salem State University, suggested student interns as a possible resource to "help educate on this complex issue."

Next Meeting Date

To be determined. Becky will do a "doodle poll" of possible days of the month that work best.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

