

Affordable Housing Commission –Monthly Meeting
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013 – 7:00 P.M. DRAFT Minutes

Charlestown Town Hall, Annex Conference Room, 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, Rhode Island

1. CALL TO ORDER. Meeting called to order by Chairman Evelyn Smith at 7:00 P.M. She offered to take notes for the minutes of this meeting.

2. ROLL CALL.

Present:

Evelyn Smith, Chair
Faith LaBossiere
Ernest Morreira

Excused:

Sean White, Vice Chair
Sandra Puchalski
Tom Gentz, Council Liaison

3. MINUTES.

Motion to approve, with one spelling correction, the minutes for the meeting of July 25, 2013, was made by Faith, seconded by Ernest, and approved unanimously.

The minutes for August 29, 2013, were reviewed, and item 3 was corrected to read "...to attach the **three** letters noted..." Motion to approve, as corrected, the minutes for the meeting of August 29, 2013, was made by Ernest, seconded by Faith, and approved unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATIONS. Review and brief discussion of communications and documents received since the October 17, 2013 meeting. The Communications Report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

5. STAFF REPORTS on current Affordable Housing issues. No reports noted.

6. REPORT, TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON. No report, but the Chair noted that the Town's response to the League of Cities and Towns' survey was sent with the revisions recommended by the Commission, together with the cover letter discussed and the Commission's April 15th report. The response and cover letter are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Chair also noted that Town Council President Tom Gentz was appointed by the League of Cities and Towns, as one of two representatives of the smaller municipalities to serve on the Legislative Affordable Housing Oversight Committee.

Commission members were pleased by the appointment, and expressed the hope that the discussion there would continue the dynamic discussions we have had here in Charlestown, going forward in a spirit not of merely complaining but of putting a new paradigm of strategic planning into place.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Election of Secretary. This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a) Commissioners' Liaison Reports. Ernest reported that he has reached out to Conservation and Wastewater commissions, and that the latter had responded with a request for a briefing. Upon discussion, the consensus of the members present was that he could advise the Wastewater that there were no current affordable housing projects with concerns overlapping their current focus issues. He could also advise them that the Town remains vulnerable to high-density developments under the current law, but that we are working to convince the state to restore local controls. He could also advise them that with the 2016 Town Comprehensive Plan process looming, we need to do some hard thinking about the projected "Growth Centers" and their revitalization.

b) Commission Goals: Faith reported that she will be shifting her focus to take a closer look at the Bond Procedures' application forms and approval stages. Ernest reported that he felt that the convening of the state's oversight commission will be the spark for interaction that we were seeking, and that we could withdraw this project goal and focus our efforts on other matters.

c) Affordable H.O.M.E.S. Follow-up: No discussion, continued to next meeting.

d) Special Projects List/Commission Assignments. No new projects or reports.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT. None

10. NEXT MEETING. The Chair reminded that the regular December meeting was moved up to December 19th, 2013. Faith noted that she will be here for that date but was excused for January, February and March 2014.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Attachments:

Communications Report, November 21, 2013

Letter and Survey Response, Town of Charlestown to D. Beardsley, League of Cities and Towns, Oct.18,2013

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Smith, Chair

Approved at the _____, meeting of the Affordable Housing Commission.