

## 2020 Annual Report of the Affordable Housing Board of Trustees

The Affordable Housing Board of Trustees (AHBT) was established in June 2009 in accordance with the Town By-Law voted in May 2008. The Board met in February, April, and September in 2020.

The Board continues to support the Town's efforts to re-develop the former site of Coastal Metals at Little's Court as affordable housing. North Shore Community Development Coalition (NSCDC) remains committed to develop affordable housing rental units on this site and that of the former fire station/senior center on School Street. The Board approved the request of NSCDC to revise the Agreement authorizing the use of \$20,000 from the Trust to also include purposes of planning and site preparation in addition to land acquisition and construction.

Once again the Board voted to support the release of annual HOME funds designated for Merrimac in the amount of \$10,458 for reuse for competitive bid by the HOME Consortium as the Town was not in a position to use these funds. It is hoped that when the affordable housing project with NSCDC moves forward efforts to receive a grant award from the HOME competitive funds pool will be successfully.

The Board assisted the Town in successfully applying to be designated as a Housing Choice Community in 2020. This qualified the town to apply for a capital grant of up to \$250,000 that was used for infrastructure work.

The Board discussed and provided input to the proposal to amend the zoning bylaws to include language for reuse of municipal buildings or remediated hazardous material sites for purposes of developing affordable housing. The zoning amendment was passed at the Special Town Meeting on October 19, 2020. This will provide a zoning option to the 40B Comprehensive Permit process.

The percent of the affordable housing units in Merrimac that appears on the state's Subsidized Housing Inventory list remains at 5.6%.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sandra Venner, Chairperson

Term expires 2022

Laura Dillingham-Mailman (resigned in December)

Term expires 2022

Philip Parry

Term expires 2022

Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Secretary

Term expires 2022

Dawne Young

Term expires 2021

Holly Moran (appointed in November to fill at-large vacancy)

Term expires 2021

Holly Moran, Representative of Board of Selectmen (resigned in November)

Benjamin Beaulieu, Representative of Board of Selectmen

(appointed in November)

Term expires 2021