

## 2022 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 October of 2022.

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 approximately 38 affordable housing rental units on this site and that of the former fire station/senior center on School Street.

The Board is following the ZBA's public hearing for the proposed 40b project of 180 rental apartment units, The Flats at Merrimac Square. The ZBA asked the AHBT for further input as follow-up to its letter of March 2021. The Board supports the intent to increase the number of state-qualifying affordable housing units to a number that represents 10% of housing units in town. It is noted in the eleven points cited in the letter that 130 units will be sufficient to reach this goal along with the units in the housing project noted above.

The Board joined other Town Departments in reviewing and commenting on the preliminary regulations for new zoning for Multi-Family Housing in designated MBTA Communities of which Merrimac is one. The Board believes the revisions made to the final regulations are more suitable for communities of Merrimac's size and rural nature.

The Board sent a letter of support to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee for the creation of the position of Town Planning Consultant. This action was approved at the Annual Town Meeting on April 25, 2022.

The percent of the affordable housing units in Merrimac that appears on the state's Subsidized Housing Inventory list remains at 5.6% at present. When the number of housing units in Town recorded in the 2020 Census becomes available, the state will recalculate this percentage.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sandra Venner, Chairperson

Term expires 2024

Philip Parry

Term expires 2024

Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Secretary

Term expires 2024

Dawne Young

Term expires 2023

Holly Moran

Term expires 2023

Brienne Walsh (appointed in March)

Term expires 2023

Benjamin Beaulieu, Representative of Board of Selectmen

Term expires 2023