Merrimac Affordable Housing Board of Trustees
Minutes
September 2, 2021

I. **Call to order**: The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Sandra Venner.

II. **Present**: Sandra Venner, Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Ben Beaulieu, Phil Parry, Dawne Young and Brienne Walsh.

III. **Approval of Minutes for March 25, 2021.** With a motion by Board member Brienne Walsh and a second by Ben Beaulieu, board members approved the minutes for the board's March 25, 2021 meeting.

IV. **Status of NSCDC of Development at Little Court and former Fire Station:** Board member Ben Beaulieu reported that utility work at the site is underway. Chair Venner said the NSCDC can bring the project to the ZBA as a friendly 40-B comprehensive building project or come to the Planning Board using the new zoning language approved by attorneys for the NSCDC. They can follow whichever option works best for them. Soil injections are planned and the group still intends to purchase 14 Grove Street in order to provide a second access to the project.

V. **Status of The Flats at Merrimac Square:** Chair Venner reported that a site visit was held with Mass Housing. The Select Board has gathered comments on the project. The proposal is currently before Mass Housing.

VI. **Report on Strategic Planning Committee:** Board member Dawne Young reported that the committee is at work on the strategic plan for the next five years. She said it is a good board with town department participation. Issues such as ADA compliance, road work, a DPW building, water and sewer work, a Town Planner position and affordable housing have all been raised.

VII. **Interest in Passage of Community Preservation Act:** Chair Venner reported the state match has been reduced to 12 percent for every tax dollar raised. Tax payers would been to agree to add one or two percent to the tax rate. Board members agreed that it would be difficult to gain taxpayer approval.

VIII. **Correspondence and Announcements:** The HOME Consortium is seeking a representative from Merrimac. Brienne will discuss this with the new staff person. The Select Board will send a letter of support to the Amesbury Housing Authority for CDBG support and potential to low-income residents in Merrimac.

IX. **Scheduling Next Meeting and Adjournment.** The board will meet again when the Mass Housing review of the Flats is available.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Secretary, January 29, 2022