

Merrimac Affordable Housing Board of Trustees
Minutes
October 13, 2015

- I. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:45am. by Chair Sandra Venner.
- II. **Present:** Sandra Venner, Hal Lloyd, and Laura Mailman and guests Carol McLeod and Martha Crook and Lisa Pearson by phone.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Without a quorum of members who had been present at the July 23 and August 27, 2015 meetings, board members did not vote on accepting the minutes.

IV. **Opportunity to Partner with Salisbury to submit for CDBG**

Salisbury Planner Lisa Pearson said that Salisbury has partnered with Amesbury in the past to jointly seek CDBG funds and is asking Merrimac to consider joining them. Although DHCD will not release the grant details until Nov., Lisa anticipates it will be beneficial to have a regional submittal. Awards for an 18 month period can be up to \$1.4 mil with about \$250,000 for administration. HOME funds can be used to supplement CDBG funds.

Lisa will send the list of projects that can be covered through the grant. Previously Salisbury and Amesbury have offered housing rehab services to income qualified households. Salisbury currently has two experienced staff who administer this project. Units that are rehabbed through the program qualify for the SHI. A target area of town would need to be designated in the grant.

Lisa suggested the next step be to hold a public forum to inform people about the grant potential and discuss how it could be used and seek input on what neighborhoods to include in the target area. The forum could also be used as a means to get input on the goals and objectives of the HPP. Lisa will check her availability for proposed dates in the first two weeks of Nov. A motion was made by Hal and seconded by Laura to proceed with pursuing the CDBG grant with Salisbury and possibly Amesbury with the first step being sponsoring the public forum to be covered by local cable TV. All were in favor.

V. **Updating of Housing Production Plan**

Mike Parquette of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission sent a revised draft for the 2015 Housing Production Plan. Some information needs clarification and possible correction. A motion was made by Laura and seconded by Hal to authorize Chair Venner to meet with to Mike Parquette to discuss further revisions to the draft. All were in favor.

VI. **New Board Member**

Motion made by Hal and seconded by Laura to request that the Board of Selectmen appoint Martha Crook to the AHBT. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am

App'd 12/17/15
Sandra Venner, Chair