

Merrimac Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Minutes

May 11, 2017

- 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, Laura Dillingham-Mailman and Phil Parry.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** With a motion by board member Phil Parry and a second by board member Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, approved the minutes of the board's November 17, 2016 meeting. Board member Laura Dillingham-Mailman abstained from the vote. With a motion by Laura Dillingham-Mailman and a second by board member Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, board members approved the minutes of the board's January 19, 2017 meeting. Board member Phil Parry abstained from the vote.
- IV. **Discussion with Karen Conard, ED, MVPC re: Chapt. 40 B for Mobile Homes and Other Affordable Housing Developments:** Karen Conard presented and discussed the 2017 Merrimack Valley Regional Housing Plan. The plan notes similarities and differences in all of the 15 communities served by Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. The plan will assist in developing strategies for the development of affordable housing in the communities. Chair Venner said the town needs assistance in keeping units of affordable housing as affordable. Although many of the residents who live in the town's two mobile home communities might meet the income criteria for affordable housing, the land is owned by park owners. Deed restrictions and a subsidy to make the units affordable would be required, Ms Conard explained.
- V. **Agreement with NSCDC Proposal to Assist in Purchase of 14 Grove Street:** The duplex located at 14 Grove Street that would have improved the access for the 36 units of affordable housing units planned for the former Coastal Metal site may become available again for purchase. The next round of HOME fund may be a potential funding source for the project. A meeting with Ilene Vogel, Director of Economic Development with North Shore CDC will be planned in the late summer or early fall.
- VI. **Status of CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program:** Board members discussed the recent local changes in the administration of the regional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The Housing Rehabilitation Program will now be administered by the City of Amesbury. To assist in the administration of the program, Amesbury has hired Communities Opportunity Group. The change in administration should not change the project's budget or impact the services to be offered through the Housing Rehabilitation Program.
- VII. **Use of Expiring Home Funds:** In a motion by board member Laura Dillingham-Mailman and a second by board member Philip Parry, board members approved the use of \$7,000 in expiring HOME Funds to be combined with the CDBG funded Housing Rehabilitation Program.
- VIII. **Correspondence:** With regret, board members accepted board member Hal Lloyd's resignation from the AHBT. The Board of Selectmen will select a representative from the board to fill the position as their representative to the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Secretary
July 27, 2017

App'd 9/14/17
Sandra Venner, Chair