

**Merrimac Affordable Housing Trust Fund**

**Minutes**

**Jan. 19, 2017**

- I. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Sandra Venner.
- II. **Present:** Sandra Venner, Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Laura Dillingham-Mailman and Martha Crook.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Without a quorum of members available who had been present at the meeting, board members did not vote on accepting the minutes of the board's November 17, 2016 meeting.
- IV. **Agreement with NSCDC Proposal to Assist in Purchase of 14 Grove Street:** Although North Shore Community Development Coalition (NSCDC) was at work on a contract to purchase a 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, the seller of the property has entered into an agreement with another buyer. As a result, board members discussed changes in the agreement with NSCDC to include the potential purchase of a third parcel of land yet to be determined. In a motion by board member Laura Dillingham-Mailman with a second by board member Martha Crook, board members agreed to approve KP Law's proposed recommendations regarding the grant agreement with NSCDC with the revisions discussed.
- V. **Status of CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program:** Board members discussed the recent local changes in the administration of the regional Community Development Block Grant 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.
- VI. **Proposed Revisions for Rural Highway District Zoning:** Chairwoman Venner reported that the Planning Board is considering a proposed revision to the Rural Highway District Zoning that could potentially allow multi-family units up to a certain size to be built in the rural Highway Zoning District if they include affordable housing units. The proposal would require voter approval at a future town meeting.
- VII. **Correspondence:** The Department of Housing and Community Development reports that the Town's Subsidized Housing Inventory is 5.8% of the Town's housing and is below the state's requirement for 10 percent of the Town's Housing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Secretary  
January 20, 2017

App'd 5/11/17  
Sandra Venner,  
Chair