

Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee Meeting

Tuesday September 28, 2021 at 5:00 PM

Members in Attendance: Tim Rush, Christine White, Christina Brown, Melissa Vincent, Maria Ventura, Jason Mazar-Kelly

Vice-Chairman Rush opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Minutes: Maria Ventura moved to approve the August 17, 2021 minutes. Tim Rush seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

Meshacket project update: The administrator informed the Committee that the consultant, procurement officer and herself are currently in the process of putting together a time line for the selection Committee, revisiting the comparative criteria, the point system used to evaluate the proposals and adding a glossary of terms. The administrator added that she is putting together dates for the orientation meeting which should be about ten days before the proposals are due on October 22, 2021.

Chasin/Litchfield property update: The administrator informed the Committee that the legal aspects of the property have been completed by town counsel and that it is now in the hands of Dukes County Regional Housing Authority who is putting together an information packet as well as an additional page to clearly lay out the Chasin's additional restrictions.

Melissa Vincent brought up a concern that the Committee is serving more than just the "Affordable" (80 % AMI and lower) population of the community more and more and she is wondering whether or not it makes sense to change the Committee's name as well as looking into more of how to allow the Trust to be able to serve higher AMI's in the future. Especially in light of the transfer fee bills being brought before the state legislature. Christina Brown suggested a simple name change from Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee to Edgartown Housing Committee. Tim Rush suggested putting a pin in the topic and revisiting it next meeting. The administrator informed the Committee that this topic relates to the Municipal housing position topic on the agenda. Vice-Chairman Rush replied that they will speak on the topic more when they get to that item but he would like the name/Committee purpose change to be on the next agenda.

Municipal Housing Position: Vice-Chairman Rush asked the administrator what has been happening with the progress of creating a new position to accommodate the growing housing crisis. The administrator replied that Chairman Hess sent out an email describing a conversation he had with Kim Lucas, the director of HR/Personnel going over the different options the Committee has to create the position as well as the different processes that would need to take place. Ms. Lucas suggested not only having the new position under the umbrella of the town but to also have the Committee fall under the umbrella of the town. The next step is that the Chairman and the administrator will have a conversation with the Town Administrator to discuss the Committees plans and what the Select Board needs for approval. Christina Brown asked for

clarification on part of the discussion including that the Committee becoming a formal Committee of the town. The administrator replied yes.

Jason Mazar-Kelly asked if it would be useful to have a vote for the aforementioned idea to have the Committee request to be a formal Town Committee as well as creating the Municipal Housing Manager/ Coordinator position. Melissa Vincent made a motion to propose to the Select Board that the Affordable Housing Committee become a formal Town Committee, called the Edgartown Housing Committee and be a part of the Town's Structure. Jason Mazar-Kelly seconded and the vote passed unanimously. Jason Mazar-Kelly made a motion to create a Municipal Housing Manager position. Christina Brown seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business: The administrator informed the Committee of a round table discussion, hosted by Island Housing Trust with various Community members, housing advocates, business owners, municipal employees and representatives of Mass Housing. The administrator explained that they discussed the housing situation on the island and the different ways everyone is working to combat the situation. The administrator found it to be a productive discussion and will be speaking with a representative of Mass Housing to see what they may be able to help with in Edgartown.

CPC Application: The administrator presented a letter and application to the Committee to review before sending to Kristy Rose to send to the Community Preservation Committee. The Committee approved for it to be sent.

High Street: It has been brought to the attention of multiple Committee members as well as being personally observed that 65 Pease Point Way is once again unoccupied. Vice-Chairman Rush gave the history of past dealings with this property and the owner. Tim Rush proposes to get details in order to advance the issue to the Select Board. Maria Ventura agrees with Mr. Rush and would like to see the issue brought to the Select Board. It was brought to Ms. Ventura's attention that the neighbor at 50 High Street was asked to move, start the car, wash the car and sweep the area etc. for the property next door at 65 Pease's Point Way. The Committee does not believe the neighbors are trying do anything wrong but are concerned that Ms. Zettl is once again not residing in her residence. The Committee unanimously voted to bring the issue to the attention of the Select Board to help with the situation.

The Committee unanimously voted to accept the letter of support for the transfer fee legislation as well as an endorsement of the Coalition to Create a Martha's Vineyard Housing Bank as written.

Demo Delays: Christina Brown made a motion to pass on 22 Herring Creek Road and 27 Pinehurst Road. Christine White seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle Faria

