

## Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at 3:30 PM

*Members in Attendance: Chairman Mark Hess, Vice-Chair Tim Rush, Christina Brown, Tom Soldini, and Joseph Roberts*

*Members Absent: Melissa Vincent and Christine White*

*Staff in Attendance: Lucy Morrison, Assistant*

Chairman Mark Hess opened the meeting at 3:30 PM.

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the last meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Tom Soldini moved to approve the minutes as written. Tim Rush seconded, Joseph Roberts abstained, and the motion was unanimously approved, with one abstention.

Two demolition delay notices received from the DCRHA were read for 99 School St and 15 Angevin's Lane. Habitat for Humanity and the Island Housing Trust had already passed on both houses. Tim Rush noted that the Committee got involved with moving houses once before, and it was disastrous. Mark Hess mentioned that the Committee could serve as an information facilitator, and further publicize that the houses are available, but not get involved with moving them. It was suggested that a section of available homes be put on the website, where these notices could be posted. Christina Brown moved to pass on the two demo delays. Tim Rush seconded, Joseph Roberts abstained, and the motion passed unanimously, with one abstention.

The annual report for the Island Housing Trust was reviewed.

The Committee discussed the correspondence with the Board of Selectmen regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> Street lots. There are disagreements between the two parties that need to be worked out, and the letters addressing those subjects have not yet resolved the issues. The Committee discussed arranging a meeting with the Board of Selectmen to start afresh, to co-operate and define the program. Tom Soldini also suggested seeking counsel on Fair Housing Laws to educate the Committee on standard practices. Christina Brown mentioned that it would be more financially feasible to reach out to a state agency, such as the DCHD or MHP, as opposed to an expert lawyer.

The Committee received a written complaint from Harold Zadeh, a neighbor of Jennifer Morgan, an affordable homesite resident. There have been multiple issues with this residence in the past, and the Committee is up to date on the situation. Ms. Morgan has a right to rent out rooms in her house, but the occupancy limit may be over capacity. This issue is not within the direct jurisdiction of the Committee; there are town bylaws that govern the subject, and there may be a condition limiting occupancy on her special permit granted by the ZBA. The Committee drafted a response to Ms. Morgan. Copies of the letter will be sent to the Building Inspector, the Board of Health, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Board of Selectmen, and Mr. Zadeh. It was anticipated that the Building Inspector will be taking authoritative action, but Ms. Morgan was invited before the Committee to respond to the complaint. Christina Brown moved to send the letter, and empower Mark Hess to review it with the assistant before the next meeting. Tom Soldini seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. The assistant will keep in touch with Mr. Zadeh and inform him of the actions of the Committee.

Tom Soldini updated the Committee on the recent actions of the RFP sub-committee. A meeting with Dick Barbini was held. The correspondence with National Heritage was reviewed, and it was determined that the ecological study may not be necessary. Based on the recommendations by National Heritage, the property should be surveyed, staked and bound, and then the Committee will be presented with a finalized building envelope. It will be determined then if the ecological study will proceed, if not requested by National Heritage earlier. A new draft of the RFP incorporating comments received from Rita Farrell, of Mass Housing Partnership, and from the assistant after having attended the Housing Institute is in process. Mr. Soldini recommended each Committee member mull over some decision criteria to be discussed at a later date.

The assistant will find out the current status of the new procurement officer, and the process for general approval of the RFP before it is released to the public.

Charles and Julie Sennott are residential abutters to the Meshacket project, and asked to come before the Committee several weeks prior to the meeting. Since they were not present, the assistant stated their concerns about Swimming Place Path, and the Daniel's farm. The Committee is unsure if anything can be done about the uses of the Daniel's property, but would like to assure the Sennotts that there is strong interest in trying not to disturb the paths and woods. The assistant will be in touch with them to show where the property will be staked and bound and to review the Special Way bylaws.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Morrison  
Assistant