

Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 3:30 PM

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

*Staff in Attendance: Lucy Morrison, Assistant*

*Others in Attendance: David Vigneault, DCRHA*

Chairman Mark Hess called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM.

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Christina Brown made an amendment to the second paragraph. Joseph Roberts moved to approve as amended. Tim Rush seconded, and the amended minutes were approved unanimously.

Mark Hess read Mr. Soldini's letter of resignation, and explained the reasoning behind his decision. The Committee will send him a letter accepting his resignation, that it is with great regret that we accept his resignation, thank him for his tireless efforts, and state that he will be sorely missed.

A demolition delay letter was read for a property on Moffett Way. Tim Rush moved to pass on the Moffett way house. Joseph Roberts seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. The Committee explained the general trend to pass on demo delays. Mr. Vigneault stated he has noticed this trend, and suggested meeting with the Committee at a later date to discuss what has been learned from the bylaw. He stated that the demo delay bylaw is a good effort in the right direction, but is under-utilized, and mainly being used by Habitat for Humanity for soft-stripping.

Mr. Vigneault, the Executive Director of the DCRHA, approached the Committee to explain that the Community Preservation Committee has opened the application process for Fiscal Year 2016 to be voted upon at the Annual Town Meeting next spring. Mr. Vigneault requested \$102,000 for rental assistance. There is a surplus of money left over from the \$128,000 that was received last year. There has also been a decrease of landlords participating in the program due to the increased demand for seasonal rentals and the sale of moderately priced homes.

Melissa Vincent asked for an update on the costs of rentals across the island. Mr. Vigneault responded that the market rate for a one-bedroom is about \$1,000 per month or \$958 without utilities. A two-bedroom costs between \$1,200 and \$1,350. what is a one bedroom. Joseph Roberts asked about the decline of landlords. Mr. Vigneault replied that the DCRHA has been marketing to landlords, but hasn't received any responses.

Christina Brown moved to support the DCRHA's request to the CPC for \$102,000. Melissa Vincent seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. The Committee will discuss its own CPC application at the next meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

An updated list of the tax title lots available was presented. The Committee had expressed interest in several of them in a letter to the Selectmen dated October 3, 2013. The Committee reviewed the

updated list and declared continued interest in three of the parcels: 101 18<sup>th</sup> St South, 67 Pennywise Path, and 294 Chappaquiddick Rd. The Committee discussed writing a letter to the Selectmen requesting them for use as affordable housing.

The Committee discussed possibilities for the tax title lots. Melissa Vincent expressed concerns about you-builds; and emphasized the importance of deed restrictions in perpetuity, so that the house may remain affordable forever. Christina Brown stated that there are a variety of needs for housing, and she does not want to see all of the lots become homesites, and hopes that other options are explored. Joseph Roberts stated that he would like to explore some ownership possibilities with heavy restrictions. Tim Rush suggested a revitalized, revisited and renewed resident homeownership program. The Committee also discussed scheduling a meeting with the Selectmen in October to discuss differences in philosophies in terms of rental and homeownership programs.

Several letters were received from the community in regards to the Meshacket public forum. Correspondence from Christopher Crofton-Atkins, Jim Athearn, Frank and Cathy O'Laughlin and Caroline Taylor were read into the record.

Mark Hess presented a packet that he prepared to be distributed at the public forum on Thursday. It shows the site plans of the parcel and how the design arrangements have changed over time. The assistant is also drafting up a brief history of the project from the minutes and town meeting articles. Christina Brown suggested distributing the packet of information at the end of the forum so people listen instead of read.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Morrison