

## Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee Minutes October 1, 2014 at 3:30 PM

*Members Present: Mark Hess, Tim Rush, Joseph Roberts, Christine White, and Christina Brown (late)*  
*Others Present: Susan Clark, Kristy Rose and Harriet Hoar*

Chairman Mark Hess opened the meeting at 3:30.

The Committee reviewed the minutes from September 17<sup>th</sup>. Joseph Roberts moved to approve the minutes. Tim Rush seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved, 4-0.

Three demolition delay letters were received for 3 Moffett Way, 5 Crafts Field Way and 7 Litchfield Road. Christine White moved to pass on all three. Tim Rush seconded and the motion was unanimously approved, 4-0.

Tim Rush moved to support the Island Housing Trust's CPC application for \$100,000 as presented on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Christine White seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved, 4-0.

The Committee discussed the CPC application for the Meshacket project. The Committee reviewed the letter of presentation and other materials drafted for the application. Mark Hess suggested requesting \$250,000. The Committee agreed that public meeting was productive and helpful. A goal of holding a well thought out public forum or workshop approximately every six weeks was discussed.

Christina Brown entered the meeting.

The Committee decided to invite the Board of Selectmen to the next meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Meshacket public forum, and to discuss further planning. After conferring with the Selectmen, the Committee will have a better idea of what to present to the CPC. The Committee also discussed holding another public forum focusing on the younger generation, to receive general input on what type of housing would benefit the group most, and to find out how many can afford to purchase a home.

Joseph Roberts moved to approve the CPC application. Christina Brown seconded with the understanding that the final ideas and plans will be worked out at a later date. The motion was unanimously approved, 5-0.

Susan Clark, the soon-to-be owner of a 54-acre parcel abutting the Meshacket property, approached the Board. She will be closing on the property on October 15<sup>th</sup>. She requested a utility easement to bring sewer from the pumping station located across Meshacket Rd to the property. The easement would be for approximately 15 feet, or for slightly longer down Division Rd. She stated that she has preliminary approval from the sewer department, and that the Town does not want septic tanks on the property. If approved by the Committee, she would be willing to pay for the Meshacket project to tie in to the sewer connection.

Mark Hess stated that various people need to approve the idea. The Committee agreed that there are many technical questions that need to be worked out before an official decision can be reached, but will continue to work on this. The assistant will begin by checking with state agencies to ensure that an easement can be placed on a 40B property.

Kristy Rose, the Administrative Assistant to the CPC, entered the meeting to answer any questions. The first CPC meeting will be on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, when the Committee will begin reviewing applications and set up a schedule. Mark Hess requested to be at the end of the schedule in order to formulate a new plan after a discussion with the Selectmen, and to be as prepared as possible. Kristy answered that Affordable Housing applications are usually heard first, but the Meshacket application can be arranged to be last. She estimated that the meeting will probably be the first week in November.

Mrs. Rose explained that at least 10% of CPC funds are designated for each of the three accounts, but there needs to be a project, and the funds must be requested. This year, the affordable housing account will be receiving \$110,000, which is estimated to be more than 10%. The CPC acts as a filter for the Annual Town Meeting; typically, as long as there are sufficient funds and the project is legal within the CPA, the request is sent to Town Meeting. The Committee thanked Mrs. Rose for her time and knowledge.

Harriet Hoar was present to follow up on the public forum. She reiterated that traffic on Meshacket Road is awful, and the condition of Meetinghouse Way is deplorable. She speculated that people often use Meshacket, Cleavelandtown and Road to the Plains to avoid Meetinghouse. She requested that the committee discuss and consider supporting the paving of Meetinghouse Way. Tim Rush stated that he completely agreed with Mrs. Hoar, but was unsure that the Committee had the time or energy to present such a large, controversial issue. Mark Hess appreciated Mrs. Hoar for being present and discussing the problem, but echoed Mr. Rush's concerns. Christine White stated that as a resident off of Meetinghouse Way she disagreed with the claims that trucks avoid the road because it isn't paved due to the amount of commercial vehicles she sees using it.

Ms. Hoar stated that the Meshacket project would be in better standing with the neighbors if the Committee supported the paving of Meetinghouse. It would show an effort to alleviate some of the burden created by the new project. The Committee agreed to bring up the issue with the Selectmen at the next meeting.

Christine White exited the meeting at 4:12 PM.

The assistant mentioned that a conversation has been started with Professor Dulaski of Northeastern University about a traffic study on Meshacket Road. Northeastern University students were highly recommended by the Planning Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Morrison