

Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee Meeting November 5, 2014 at 3:30 PM

Members in Attendance: Tim Rush, Joseph Roberts, Christina Brown, Christine White

Others in Attendance: Sheylah Callen

Tim Rush, acting as Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:40 PM.

Mr. Rush will need to leave the meeting by 4:00 PM to attend the CPC meeting.

Christina Brown moved to approve the minutes from October 15th. Joseph Roberts seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

A demolition delay letter for 23 Thayer Street was read. Christina Brown moved to pass. Christine White seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. The Committee discussed that it is typical policy to pass on older structures due to lead paint and other issues. Christina Brown recommended sending a polite letter to Jeff Norton thanking him for the offer.

The Committee discussed positions for the new member candidates. Sheylah Callen recused herself from the discussion. Mark Hess and the assistant tentatively decided to assign Sheylah Callen to both the Committee and the Trust, Susan Pratt to Committee, and Jessica Burnham to Trust. Christine White moved to approve the assignments. Joseph Roberts seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. Sheylah Callen rejoined the meeting.

A homeowner and her realtor recently approached the Committee to present a home at 5 Windsor Drive as a buy-down opportunity. The Committee discussed the possibility of re-opening the buy-down program. Tim Rush mentioned that the program was voted inactive to focus on the Meshacket project, even though there were finances available for one or two more houses. The administration of the program requires a considerable amount of energy. It was also suspended due to lack of qualifying applicants and inventory.

The Committee agreed that more discussion and research on the buy-down program is needed before a decision to re-open is made. Christine White suggested reaching out to the five homeowners to discuss how successful the program has been for them, noting that the homes come with more restrictions than usual. It was decided that if the program is to be re-opened, it will be sufficiently advertised and open to the public for input. Joseph Roberts noted that the island is considered a rural area, and there is access to different types of loans and funding that could be researched as well. Christina Brown moved to research how well the buy-down is working. Tim Rush seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Sheylah Callen, a real estate agent, mentioned that there are a couple properties under \$300,000 in Edgartown, one being on Chappaquiddick. The Committee requested that she bring a list of the Edgartown homes available in the \$400,000 to \$450,000 range to the next meeting.

The Committee reviewed bylaw 11.20 (substandard lots as affordable homesites). The Selectmen have been clear that they don't want restrictions in perpetuity for 6th St.

The Committee decided to request a special meeting with Selectmen to follow up with the discussion on October 15th; it will be scheduled once Mark Hess is back.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Morrison