

Affordable Housing Commission
MINUTES
August 18, 2021
Annex Room Town Hall

Call to Order by Chair, Evelyn Smith at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Cathy Solomon Thom Cahir, Evelyn Smith, Claudette Baril

Absent: Sandra Puchalski, Jake Wolfgang

Chair asked the Secretary to maintain an Attendance Roster. Per rules of order, absences hereafter will be noted as excused or unexcused. Members are asked to notify the Chair in advance if they will not attend.

Minutes of June 8 2021 meeting were reviewed at this meeting due to lack of quorum at July 21, 2021 meeting and included the Affordable Housing Commission Rules of Order as amended June 8, 2021.

Motion: Solomon/Cahir. Unanimously approved

Communications were discussed including the response from June 10, 2021 letter to Town Council designating Susan Cooper as Council liaison to the Affordable Housing Commission.

Also, Evelyn Smith reviewed her Memo to Town Council of April 14, 2021 recommending amendment to the Town Plan regarding Affordable Housing to keep Charlestown's language and plan consistent with "low and moderate income housing" (LMIH) as defined by state law.

Additionally, the Commission reviewed the letter to Town Council of July 15, 2021 in which Evelyn reported that the Affordable Housing Commission is not submitting an Annual Report as requested by the Town Council because there had not been a quorum/meeting since 2018. Instead, Evelyn reported to the Town Council that the Commission is functioning again and looking forward to working with the town to enhance Charlestown's Affordable Housing goals.

New Business

A) LMIH STATUS

The Commission will begin a comparative review of the Town's 2004 Housing Plan with the newly adopted 2021 Comprehensive Community Plan. The commission will review current data, strategies and obstacles and will seek clarity on the state conveyance tax as one of the funding possibilities for Charlestown LMIH.

B) BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

The Commission asks members to identify and share contact info of area housing partners. Send info to Secretary now and ongoing to build the

resources list. As reports come in from member assignments, additional partners will emerge.

Motion to extend meeting (Cahir/Baril) approved at 8:35 pm

C) COMMUNITY ASSIGNMENT

All members are asked to review/compare 2004 Affordable Housing Plan and the newly adopted Comprehensive Plan "Housing Choice" which has replaced 2004 Plan and come with notes/outline of salient LMIH data/issues possibly compared to similar size beach towns (Narragansett, South Kingston, Barrington.)

Some of the issues that require research/report moving forward:

Modifications to existing housing
Exploration of Land Trust possibilities
Impact of recent proposal on Community Cottages
Habitat model and models of neighboring towns:
Tribal Housing and any mutual benefit of collaboration
Regional Planning Council, South Shore
Ordinance changes
RI Housing
Conveyance Tax clarification: Cathy
Town/s Website review for revisions/enhancements to Charlestown: Jake
Existing bond money and how to access. Evelyn
Current LMIH Comprehensive Permit status. Evelyn speak to Jane
Deed restrictions: Evelyn will clarify with the town
Maintain housing resources from members to enhance partnerships with other housing needs/groups in the area: Claudette

Old Business: none

Public Comment: no public present

Next meeting September 22, 2021 7:00 Town Hall

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. (Baril/Solomon) approved

Respectfully submitted,

Claudette Baril, Secretary

Approved 9/22/21

POSTED AT TOWN HALL	9/24/21	JJG
POSTED ON TOWN'S WEBSITE	9/24/21	JJG
POSTED ON SOS WEBSITE	9/24/21	JJG