

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2023

ATTENDEES: Steve Irish, Chair; Nancy Chapman; Elizabeth Howie and Maura Curran were all present for the meeting. Maura Curran was remoted. Ms. Wagner was absent

Additional Attendees: Shari Young, Administrative Assistant

Public Attendees:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Irish moved to accept the agenda, Ms. Chapman seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken and was unanimously in favor.

Meeting Minutes: February 15, 2023

Mr. Irish moved to approve the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes; Ms. Chapman seconded the motion; a roll call vote was unanimously in favor. Ms. Curran did not vote as she was absent from the meeting.

DISCUSSION: Alternative Funding Sources

There was discussion about the AHT investigating some large-scale grant funding programs and reviewing their applications to see if AHT could apply for any funds outside of CPC and the Town. AHT needs to compile a list of which funds to target in the next few meetings, get the applications and see how complicated they may/may not be.

- AHT needs to determine if the Trust is considered a non-profit.
- Grants the AHT should look at, United Way, Hale Foundation, HJ Weinberger Foundation.
- AHT can leverage the successfully running Small Repairs Grant Program and Lawson Green.

Ms. Howie indicated she has not yet been able to get in touch with her contacts in Maine and Vermont to inquire about any alternative state of local resource for funding and/or partnering with another entity; the entity does not have to be local.

AHT first needs to determine if the Trust is considered a non-profit. Mr. Irish noted that in terms of partnering with someone the AHT does not have any land, but does have money that could be used if a project could be identified.

Mr. Irish will get the application for HJ Weinberger if it looks promising Ms. Young will circulate it to the other Trust members.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Curran said how pleased she is with the success of the Small Repairs Grant Program (SRGP). The AHT discussed doing a round of the SRGP for just deed restricted properties; CPC money could be used to fund that

round of grants. The AHT will discuss at the next meeting if they might want to proceed with a round of funding solely for deed restricted properties.

AHT may want to change the parameters for deed restricted applicants. AHT could vote to allocate a certain amount of the funds that they currently have. Potentially AHT could direct mail/market to the units in Town that are deed restricted. Mr. Irish to reach out to Ms. Sunnarborg for some clarity if direct mailing would be allowed.

Ms. Chapman suggested if the AHT does do the SRGP the parameters could be more liberal and flexible with the criteria for a grant, upgrades could be done not just repairs or modification; Mr. Irish will reach out to Ms. Sunnarborg for advice if that would be allowed. There was discussion if CPC funds could be used for upgrades; Ms. Curran said CPC funds are used all the time for upgrades, i.e. potential of \$500K for the Scituate Housing Authority to upgrade their windows which is coming before Town Meeting.

Ms. Chapman suggested that the AHT should maybe consider asking CPC for additional funds for replenishment if they move forward with a round of the SRGP to deed restricted properties only.

Mr. Irish said the first round of funding granted from the Town was provided with the understanding the AHT would report how the pilot program worked before any additional funds would be requested. CPC replenishment is a different process and something that can be discussed at a later date once the AHT has planned out what they intend to do with SRGP.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

Ms. Howie made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Chapman seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken and was unanimously in favor.

Adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Submitted by: Shari Moak Young

Approved: June 21, 2023