

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2023

ATTENDEES: Steve Irish, Chair; Nancy Chapman; Ruth Wagner were all present for the meeting. Maura Curran and Elizabeth Howie were 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. Wagner seconded the motion; a vote was taken and was unanimously in favor.

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**Meeting Minutes: March 2023**

There was no quorum for a vote on meeting minutes, vote held off to the next meeting.

**DISCUSSION: Alternative Funding Sources**

Ms. Wagner indicated she attempted to do research on some of the names mentioned in previous meeting, i.e. Weinberg and Jeff Bezos wife. She opined that in order to receive funds there needs to be an identified program for the funds to go to, i.e. Small Repairs Grant Program, however it looks like grants from Bezos's are really being used to fund underserved communities and Scituate would not qualify.

The AHT still needs to find out if the Trust is considered a non-profit and if any of the grant organizations would deem it acceptable to be affiliated with the Town. Mr. Irish to investigate if the AHT is a non-profit.

Mr. Irish indicated he knows someone who runs a foundation that provides funding for Education, but he did not think it would be applicable; maybe it would be something to look at if the AHT were to work on providing affordable housing to teachers.

AHT to continue looking for other sources of funding.

Ms. Howie may have additional information at the next meeting from research she was working on.

Ms. Chapman provided some information to Mr. Irish for writing grants.

**DISCUSSION: Small Repairs Grant Program**

3-4 grants have been completed and funds have been released to the grantees. 8-10 grants had been awarded. AHT discussed sending out a check-in/reminder letter at the end of June for the status on some of the grants. Grantees have a year to collect the grant award money; December 2023 is the end date.

Ms. Chapman suggested reaching out to Ms. Sunnarborg for a template letter.

There was discussion about setting aside funds for the Small Repairs Grant Program for deed restricted properties only. The current funds the AHT has from CPC can be used for Deed Restricted properties. Mr. Irish said AHT should check with Town Counsel to see if AHT could market the program to just "deed restricted" properties. Mr. Irish and Ms. Young to investigate with Town Counsel.

AHT to decide and figure out if full advertising, etc. is needed in order to administer the SRGP to just deed restricted properties. There is possibility that some properties although deed restricted the resident may no longer meet the income criteria; they could potentially be above the income level because their life situation has changed.

The AHT has the choice to change the parameters of the program. The AHT could make the income as generous as possible to hit the most people. Ms. Chapman said the AHT would need to make decisions all over again for the parameters because it is a new program. Mr. Irish said it is something to think about when all members are present at the meeting.

There was discussion if there are other towns running two programs at the same time; it was unknown.

Next meeting, there will be discussion/vote to do fund a deed restricted SRGP, parameters, funding allocation, and timing.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Chapman indicated her term is over in June 2023 and she has decided not seek re-appointment. Ms. Chapman will be at the next meeting, but that will be her last.

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

Adjourned at 7:08 pm.

*Submitted by: Shari Moak Young*

*Approved: June 21, 2023*