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# Lexington Housing Partnership

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## Meeting Minutes for Sept. 18, 2014

**Attendees:** Melinda Walker, Harriet Cohen, Betsey Weiss, Bob Pressman, Mary Haskell, Jeri Foutter

**Guests:** Jennifer Van Campen

The meeting was chaired by Betsey Weiss and the minutes were taken by Harriet Cohen. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

### **1. Approval of minutes**

Ms. Walker moved approval of the minutes of January 23, 2014; May 1, 2014; May 5, 2014; and June 6, 2014. Ms. Cohen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **2. Update Potential Parcel List (Dan Gaulin)**

Mr. Gaulin was not present. Ms. Haskell will contact Mr. Gaulin about the updating of the potential parcel list and also about the small grants program.

### **3. Fairview – Planning Board on 9/17 and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on 9/25**

The Planning Board met as planned on Sept. 17 and supports the Fairview proposal. LexHAB believes the traffic issues have been addressed; no plans to pave or widen the road. The Planning Board will send a letter of support for the proposal to the ZBA. The letter will include a discussion of the road paving [and other issues raised by Planning Board members](#). On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Joe Pato sent a letter of support to the ZBA.

### **4. Photo (Steve Tabeling)**

Mr. Tabeling took the group photo.

### **5. Update on LexHAB: Busa, Fairview and Leary; and BoS (Betsey Weiss)**

Mr. Pato updated Ms. Weiss. Ms. Weiss related that Mr. Pato would like to see the Fairview process completed, and then followed by the Busa process. When they are complete, then move on to complete the Leary process. Mr. Kennedy of LexHAB agrees that it is appropriate to start with Fairview, demonstrate success, and then move on.

### **6. Consideration of LHP letter to the BoS requesting \$50,000 in CPA funds for Leary design work and requesting \$700,000 in CPA funds for LexHAB property acquisition (Mr. Pressman)**

Mr. Pressman moved that LHP send a letter promptly to BOS asking that BOS submit 2 funding requests to CPC by the November 1, 2014 deadline for proposals for the next annual Town Meeting. These are [a] request for \$50,000 for use by LexHAB to secure plan to implement suggestions of Leary site committee [sic] and [b] request for \$700,000 for use by Town or LexHAB to secure a site to replicate a Fairview-type approach.

Ms. Walker seconded the motion.

The Partnership discussed the motion. [Mr. Pressman stated that the purpose of the motion was to secure CPA funding to implement suggestions for Board of Selectmen housing priorities in the next year, adopted by LHP in May 2014.](#) The motion failed with a vote of 1 in favor, 5 against and no abstentions.



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**7. Consideration of a request for a study to determine what can be done legally to restrict teardowns (Mr. Pressman)**

The Partnership discussed the issues surrounding the extremely high number of teardowns of Lexington. Ms. Walker moved to request the Planning Department to study the tear down issues and create a set of recommendations regarding housing teardowns in time for the Dec. 31 town warrant. Ms. Haskell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Weiss will contact Aaron Henry of the Planning Department.

Ms. Van Campen pointed out that Dan Gaulin might be available to assist with this effort.

**8. Consideration of a proposal for two community training sessions**

Metro West Collaborative Development (MWCD) is planning to hold two training community training sessions in each community served by MWCD. Ms. Foutter has secured funding for the Lexington training sessions through the Cambridge Savings Bank. Ms. Foutter has also offered the Cambridge Savings Bank as a venue for the training sessions.

The goal of the training sessions is to convey information and provide useful tools [for persons needing affordable housing](#), as well as to encourage the community to support affordable housing. One event will be held during the day and one event during the evening.

**9. Fall Op-Ed**

Ms. Walker will write an op-ed piece.

**10. New Business**

The Marrett Road historic preservation restriction is being finalized.

**11. Next meeting date: Thursday Oct. 23**

**12. Adjournment**

Ms. Walker moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Haskell seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 in favor, 1 against and 0 abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.