



Lexington Housing Partnership

Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2015

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

Absent: Erica Endyke, Paul Linton, Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti, Bill Kennedy, Wendy Manz

Guests: Hannah Brockhaus (MetroWest Collaborative Development)

The meeting was chaired by Melinda Walker and the minutes were taken by Harriet Cohen. The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm.

1. Approval of minutes

Ms. Weiss moved the minutes for approval and Ms. Haskell seconded the minutes. The minutes passed unanimously as amended at the meeting.

2. Discussion of the Metrowest Education & Marketing Proposal (Ms. Brockhaus)

Ms. Brockhaus has proposed a plan for a marketing and educational campaign regarding affordable housing. The goal is to reach a different audience than has been participating in the conversation to date. Lexington is one of several towns in which a campaign will be run. The target is to have the meetings in April and May, and have them set up in the next several weeks.

The discussion addressed topics that might be covered during the proposed “Coffee Hour” events, and how these events could most effectively move affordable housing forward. Several ideas were proposed, including “Keeping Lexington Vibrant”. An alternate approach is positioning affordable housing like a political candidate and holding coffee houses in many different places.

Ms. Brockhaus will contact various groups in town, largely at religious institutions, about scheduling coffee house discussions.

3. Review and Acceptance of the Op-Ed Piece for March (Ms. Walker)

The Partnership reviewed the piece as edited by Ms. Brockhaus and with Ms. Weiss’ comments. Several suggestions were provided and accepted as modifications to the article. Ms. Foutter moved that we accept the pieces with changes as discussed. Ms. Haskell seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Report on Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Subcommittee (Ms. Cohen, Ms. Foutter, Ms. Haskell and Ms. Weiss)

Ms. Weiss spoke with Aaron Henry and with Bill Hayes and Bob Burbage of LexHAB. Franklin Apartments is providing \$20,000. The discussion was around having LexHAB be the repository of the funds and then disburse them for relevant affordable housing projects, e.g., a small grants program. This may be the model for future funds related to affordable housing.

The Town must approve LexHAB as the repository of these funds.

5. Update on Survey of Open Space & Recreation Plan (Mr. Pressman)

Mr. Pressman sent email to Mr. Henry asking him whether he had had a chance to discuss with Conservation and Recreation that the open space and recreation plan omits reference to use of the land for affordable housing. Mr. Henry had not done so. He did state that he had identified a



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number of Town owned parcels that could be used for affordable housing. Mrs. Weiss also learned of these parcels when she contacted Mr. Henry. There are 6 parcels, ranging from 5,000 to 8,000 square feet and Mr. Henry said that he had identified a number of parcels that were 5,000 to 8,000 square feet, owned by the Town, and could each support a small duplex. Mr. Henry is busy with Town Meeting responsibilities. The Partnership will follow up with Mr. Henry on the small parcel development immediately after Town Meeting.

6. Report on CPC/BoS/Wright Farm (Mr. Pressman)

The Wright Farm proposal is up for approval at Town Meeting and will likely pass.

7. Report on Busa developments (Mr. Pressman)

Mr. Pressman reported that Mr. LaFerriere will be completing the LIP application shortly.

As mentioned in a previous meeting, Peter Kelly is building condos on Woburn Street and has made dirt from the development available for fill on BUSA. The Selectmen voted not to accept the fill.

Mr. Pressman also asked Mr. Henry about the traffic study planned for the Busa area. The Town has a plan for the streets around Busa that will be present to the neighbors shortly.

8. New Business

- Mr. Pressman reported that the Town Manager said a new assistant town manager would be the liaison to the RHSO.
- Ms. Brockhaus pointed out that the Community Endowment of Lexington fund is accepting applications for grants. The grants are in the \$5,000 to \$10,000. Affordable housing projects fall under one of the areas in which grants are made. Ms. Foutter will reach out to Bob Bicknell about working with Ms. Brockhaus on an application.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 26.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Haskell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Cohen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.