



Meeting Minutes for May 28, 2015

Attendees: Melinda Walker, Betsey Weiss, Bob Pressman, Wendy Manz, Mary Haskell, Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti, and Jeri Foutter

Guest: Elizabeth Rust, Regional Housing Services Office

Absent: Harriet Cohen, Joe Pato, Paul Linton

The meeting was chaired by Melinda Walker and the minutes were taken by Jeri Foutter. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

1. The April 30, 2015 Minutes were voted on. Bob Pressman made a motion to approve them and Betsey Weiss seconded it and both motions were approved unanimously.
2. **Tenant-Based-Rental-Assistance program** - Elizabeth Rust, of the Regional Housing Services Office, presented a proposal to implement a Tenant-Based-Rental-Assistance program using HOME funds. Funds would be used to assist low income individuals with apartment security deposits and 1st month's rents. After discussion, the LHP members voted to support the proposal.
3. **Municipal Housing Trust Concept** - Jeri Foutter updated the group on her discussion with Aaron Henry and his thoughts on forming a new Municipal Housing Trust. Aaron Henry indicated that although LexHAB appears to just be able to handle their current workload, LexHAB is a Municipal Housing Trust and could carry out the responsibilities of a Municipal Trust, i.e. administer the proposed Small Grants Program, purchase property, etc. At this time, he does not believe there is enough political backing to support the formation of a new housing trust.
4. **BUSA/LIP Application** – Bob Pressman and Melinda Walker updated the group on the BUSA status. Melinda reported she sent a letter (from LHP) to Jennifer Van Campen, Metrowest Collaborative Development to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development in support of LexHAB's Local Initiative Program application for six units of housing on the BUSA property on Lowell Street. Submission of the LIP papers to DHCD is awaiting the town's securing for LexHAB a deed identifying LexHAB as owner of the BUSA housing parcel. There is some concern that the retirement of the DHCD staff member who handled the Fairview LIP application will extend the period for approval of the BUSA application.



- 5. Planning Board Residential Policy Ad Hoc Committee** – Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti updated the group on the formation the new Planning Board sub-committee to be voted on at the June 3rd Planning Board Meeting. The Planning Board is launching an initiative to reexamine residential policy. Pending Confirmation:

Chair: Ginna Johnson

Planning Board members: Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti, Richard Canale

Planning Board Associate Member: Michael Leon

BOS liaisons: Joe Pato and Michelle Ciccolo

Non-Planning Board members: Tom Harden and Jeri Foutter

Initial activities to include the May 20th Listening Session and 1st Ad Hoc Committee meeting scheduled for June 9th.

- 6. Listening Session: Residential Policy and The Lexington We Want** – Discussion occurred regarding the Listening Session. Melinda, Bob, Wendy, Nancy and Jeri attended the Listening session on May 20th. There was positive support of the format – 2 minute limit and the speakers kept their comments to the time limit. Overall, the group felt it was a good event with many thoughtful comments made during the session.

- 7. Selectmen's Annual Goal Setting Meeting and LHP Goals** – Bob Pressman had volunteered to draft the annual Lexington Housing Partnership Goals for submission to the Board of Selectmen. The group was provided a copy prior to the meeting. After some discussion and minor edits, the group voted to approve the goals to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen.

- 8. Review of May Affordable Housing Forums** – General feedback on Hancock Church event was good, albeit a small group attended. There were approximately 35 to 40 attendees at the Temple Isaiah event. Several of the Temple Isaiah attendees had also participated in the Listening Session at Clark Middle School. The group generally felt that the strongest parts of the evening were the small group discussions, Melinda's and other panel members' comments and the LexHAB resident's personal journey story.

- 9. Next Meeting** – June 25th at 7:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.



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