

DATE: December 14, 2023  
TIME: 2:36 PM

**AFAC meeting 11/9/2023**

Present: Judy Morrison, Chairperson; May Forkin, Library; Timothy Flood, Outdoor Space Committee; Jeff Liberty, Liason with Schools on Walkability ;Susan Polit, community member and Housing Committee member.

Not present: Kristin Daley, Safety representative

- I. Introductions of members, including welcome to Jeff Liberty
2. Call out to members to attend meetings and keep up regular contact with group
3. Discussion of preparing for Select Board Meeting on Dec 18 in order to advocate for AF issues

Housing group will discuss among ourselves how to raise issues vis a vis the Housing Trust, which knows of our desire and need to have representation

The goal is to collaborate on housing plans around the MBTA extension with AF issues in forefront. Susan reported on her experience talking to the Housing Trust chair prior to their last meeting. She was told that they are "down" several members and do not have manpower to attend our meetings. Discussion today led us to the decision to talk this over at the next housing meeting and see if someone can attend Housing trust meetings as a representative and advocate especially in light of future planning.

Judy reviewed the activities of the Housing Committee and reported about the program last Spring on Home Fit with AARP director presenting as well as presenting a proposals for ADUs to Housing Trust. Housing Committee plans to have another event in which vendors and other experts on housing modification might be present to inform the community of AF housing modifications.

4. There was a general discussion about how to collaborate with Town committees and the Select Board to execute the plans which AFAC committees proposes. Approaching the Selectboard is one strategy--the question was raised as to whether AF criteria need to be included in the Town's Bylaws.

Jeff, speaking as someone who has served extensively for the town as a volunteer, suggested that we not only have guidelines for AF issues, but work with other town committees to communicate that we are not wanting to replicate or change whatever plans they have been working on but rather want to propose criteria to be included in each project--to be kept in the forefront...This emphasizes the fact that AF issues are universal issues: For example, walkability affects seniors and children, housing affects entire families. Jeff stressed the importance that whatever guidelines or proposals we make should not get lost in committee but be "baked into strategic planning". Susan raised the point that for different committees the nature of these

guidelines (and the specificity versus universality) will differ (e.g. ADUs may not be part of the Housing Trust's mandate for itself)

5. There were reports about other committees. Tim's success in collaboration with the town on Outdoor spaces was described and applauded. One very important follow up will be defining which areas are safe for walking and communicating that to the public. There are several collaborators in the community who work with Safe Paths to School and can be involved in this. May talked about the ways in which the library moving to Beech St would facilitate communication and collaboration.

6. Judy reminded us that the timing of introducing and implementing AF plans is crucial. Getting guidelines for Seniors on the Town website will be an important next step.

7. The new virtual system to notify the Town of needs such as sidewalks in need of repair was described and questions were raised about the ease of response to reports and whether this will facilitate projects being done on behalf of safety for the community.

Our next meeting will be Dec 14.at 11am on Zoom.