

Belmont Housing Trust – Minutes for January 19, 2017 Meeting

2017 AUG -7 AM 9:06

Present: Liz Allison, Judie Feins, Rachel Heller, Gloria Leipzig, Don Mercier, Paul Rickter

Absent: Helen Bakeman, Alisa Gardner-Todreas, Tommasina Olson, Judy Singler, Ann Verrilli

Guests: Jennifer Van Campen (Metro West Collaborative Development), Jeffrey Wheeler & Spencer Gober (Town staff), Anne Covino Goldenberg

Minutes. The minutes for the December meeting were approved, with several minor revisions.

Discussion of Planning Board session. The committee reviewed the Planning Board (PB) hearing on Waverley Square and South Pleasant, held immediately before this Belmont Housing Trust (BHT) meeting. It was particularly noted that the meeting was very positive with several comments advocating including additional housing in plans for this area. The Planning Board's process will continue with a follow up meeting to be held on February 7.

Updates from the Town. Jeffrey introduced Spencer Gober, new Staff Planner on the Town of Belmont staff. On Cushing Village, the Planning Board has approved a demolition permit and demolition is expected to begin in early March after an environmental review of the site by the state. A public meeting will be held at the Beech Street Center on January 24 to discuss environmental remediation plans at Cushing Village. On Royal Belmont, the project is wrapping up and moving in of residents is scheduled for February 2017.

Metro West Collaborative Development (MWCD) & Housing Production Plan (HPP). Jennifer reported that a new draft of the HPP, incorporating feedback from members of the BHT, will be ready soon. Next steps will be a meeting with BHT to review the draft and then a focus group with the people who attended the public meetings last summer to get their feedback. After that, the HPP could be presented to the Planning Board. Liz reported that the PB will want to assess the impact of Royal Belmont on the town before taking up the HPP.

Other Business. Don raised the issue of making seniors aware that they may have the option of deferring their property taxes. The idea would be to mandate assessors to include a message like the following with the tax bill: "If you are 65 or older with income of \$57,500 or less (not including assets), you may defer your Real Estate Taxes. Apply at the Assessor's Office." The BHT will discuss this idea further at our February meeting.

Submitted by Paul Rickter