

Belmont Housing Trust – Minutes for April 27, 2017 Meeting

2017 AUG -7 AM 9: 03

Present: Judie Feins, Rachel Heller, Gloria Leipzig, Donald Mercier, Tommasina Olson, Paul Rickter, Judy Singler, Ann Verrilli

Absent: Liz Allison, Helen Bakeman, Alisa Gardner-Todreas

Note: This was not a formal meeting, but instead a public discussion of the Housing Production Plan, giving residents and stakeholders the opportunity to provide input on the details of the plan. Approximately 25 people attended this meeting.

Jennifer Van Campen of Metro West Collaborative Development began the discussion with a presentation on the Housing Production Plan (HPP), including the current and future housing situation in Belmont and the purpose of the HPP. After that, the attendees divided into two groups for detailed discussion of topics included in the HPP. Participants raised the following points in addition to the topics raised in the HPP:

Housing Needs

- Mention "naturally occurring affordable units" in Belmont (such as landlords who rent to family/friends/others for affordable prices)
- 24.6% of the current Belmont population is eligible for affordable housing. What is this number for years prior?
- Note the percentages of single-family, 2-family, and multi-family buildings in Belmont
- More emphasis on senior housing needs

Housing Goals

- Housing for veterans or veteran preference
- A master plan or more explicit vision in the Plan that integrates business, housing, and transportation in specific geographical regions of Belmont
- Emphasize the importance of housing for seniors near transportation and proximity to the Town's amenities/services

Housing Strategies

- Add a reflection about lessons learned (good & bad) from The Bradford (Cushing Sq.) development
- Highlight the possibility of leveraging CPA funds
- Add zoning reform as a strategy
- In the Transit Oriented Development strategy, mention potential for Chapter 40R and housing above the stores on Trapelo Road
- In the Public Land strategy, remove the DPW site and add the municipal at C Street site
- In the Blighted Sites strategy, add the corner of Pleasant and Brighton
- In the Education strategy, add "placemaking workshops for the specific sites"

Prioritized Sites

- Remove DPW site
- Add church idea
- Remove Belmont Center
- Acknowledge that the sites are not an exhaustive list
- Add an 'e' to Waverley Station in the image
- Add Hill Estates?
- Like comprehensive planning, add branded development zones that include housing + other development

Submitted by Paul Rickter