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**Belmont Housing Trust – Minutes for January 19, 2016 Meeting**

**Present:** Judie Feins, Rachel Heller, Gloria Leipzig, Tomasina Olson, Ann Verrilli

**Absent:** Helen Bakeman, Barbara Fiacco, Alisa Gardner-Todreas, Raffi Manjikian, Don Mercier

**Guests:** Desiree Pelletier (Metro West CD AmeriCorps intern); Ann Covino Goldenberg and Julie Perkins, League of Women Voters (LWV) Action Committee on Planning and Housing

**Minutes.** The minutes for the December 17 meeting were approved as amended.

**Update from Town.** Acorn Park (the Uplands O'Neill development) is taking applications now for its affordable units. Twenty percent of the units (59) will be affordable for those at 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or lower. Jeffrey Wheeler will check the comprehensive permit and other documents for the provisions of the tenant selection plan.

Rachel Heller will research whether the Town's HOME funds can be used to develop a proposal for DHCD's recently announced public housing planning grant.

**MetroWest Collaborative Development.** Desiree Pelletier reported that Nate at MWCD has begun work on the data for the HPP. Desiree is preparing of list of the individuals and organizations in town that we will want to contact and involve in the HPP planning and outreach process. She hopes to begin meeting with people in town, along with Trust members, to introduce the HPP. Within the next few days she will circulate a draft of talking points, with the basics of the HPP that can be used for the initial meetings with contacts. It was suggested that we speak with the Lexington Town Planner to learn about the HPP outreach and adoption process that was used in Lexington. Also, Judie will circulate to Trust members the MOU with MWCD for development of the HPP.

MWCD and the Belmont Housing Authority continue to discuss options for redevelopment of Belmont Village and whether a proposal to DHCD for their "grand scheme" planning grants should be prepared. There are a number of developers who might be interested in partnering on this.

The affordable housing program being planned in Waltham, wherein MWCD would purchase 2-3 unit rental buildings, is still in the discussion stage. If it is implemented, the town would allocate CPA funds for needed rehab and possibly for rental subsidies.

**First Time Homebuyers Program.** All of those who won the lotteries have encountered difficulty locating housing units at an affordable and program-eligible price. The Trust discussed options for making the program work, given the increase in Belmont housing prices since the program was designed. We may need to reprogram the funds for the fall CPC funding cycle.

**Planning Board Update.** No representatives from the Planning Board were in attendance. The Trust did discuss the Cushing Village project and the developer's need to find a third anchor tenant and go to closing of the parking lot with the Town.

Submitted by Helen Bakeman