

Belmont Housing Trust Minutes for March 21, 2013

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Present—Alisa Gardner-Todreas, Helen Bakeman, Judie Feins, Ann Silverman, Jonathan Jacoby, Charles Clark, Gloria Leipzig

Absent—Charles Laverty III, Ann Verrilli

Guest—Mark Paolillo

Minutes—The minutes for the meeting of February 13, 2013, and the special meeting of March 12, 2013, were approved as submitted.

Guest—Mark Paolillo, Chair of the Belmont Board of Selectmen, and candidate for reelection, met with the Trust for a wide-ranging conversation on the work of the Trust, development in Belmont and affordable housing issues. Some of the topics touched on were

- CPA funding and the potential use of the Housing Trust Fund
- Problems of housing costs and availability,
- Use of municipal and religious buildings
- The proposed inclusionary zoning and religious and municipal building preservation zoning by-laws
- A need for greater visibility in Town for the Trust and for building ties to other town bodies such as the Historic Preservation Commission
- The Housing Production Plan
- Mark suggested a quarterly Trust report to the Selectmen

MetroWest Community Development—There were brief updates on Imler House (a couple of months delay expected), Crossroads Church property (Steve and Helen will look into it), Moraine Street property (nothing new), and progress for MWCD in Watertown and Newton.

MWCD is applying for funding through the Community Investment Tax Credit Grant Program to create a fundraising plan for 2014-2016. A motion was put forward, seconded and passed unanimously for the Housing Trust to send a letter to the Department of Housing and Community Development in support of the MWCD application.

Planning Board Updates—Chuck Clark reported on progress on various issues before the Planning Board, including Cushing Village and three proposed zoning by-laws (demolition delay, inclusionary zoning, preservation). He agreed to take mention of the difficulty of hearing speakers at the public meetings back to the Planning Board.

Inclusionary Zoning Update—Alisa reported on the March 15 meeting with Sami Baghdady, Jeffrey Wheeler, Glenn Clancy and Roger Colton about the Inclusionary Zoning By-Law that is to be presented at the public meeting of the Planning Board on March 26. There was displeasure expressed at some details, but recognition that this compromise was necessary. It was agreed that provisions of the proposed Religious and Municipal Building Preservation Zoning By-Law would also be a set-back for development of affordable housing.

Community Preservation Act Update—Judie put forward a suggestion that the Trust try to get on the agenda of the CPA Committee in June to talk about funding for the Housing Trust Fund. Alisa will follow up with Paul Solomon, Chair of the CPAC.

General Administration—State ethics training under the Open Meeting Act must be completed by April 5, 2013. The next meeting of the Trust will be April 18, 2013.

Submitted by Jonathan Jacoby