

Belmont Housing Trust – Minutes for March 17, 2016 Meeting

2016 APR 29 AM 8:59

Present: Helen Bakeman, Judie Feins, Rachel Heller, Gloria Leipzig, Don Mercier, Tomasina Olson,

Absent: Barbara Fiacco, Alisa Gardner-Todreas, Raffi Manjikian, Ann Verrilli.

Guests: Nate Robinson (Metro West CD); Julie Perkins, and Anne Covino Goldenberg League of Women Voters (LWV) Action Committee on Planning and Housing

Minutes. The minutes for the February 26 meeting were approved.

Update from Town. The Royal Belmont (the new name for the Acorn Park development) held the lottery for its affordable units on February 25. They received only 121 completed applications for the 59 units, only 12 of which were Belmont residents. All of the Belmont applicants will get a unit if otherwise eligible. There is a high likelihood that they will need to do another round of applications when all aspects of eligibility determination are completed.

The Board of Selectmen has given the Cushing Village developer until 22 March to have financing and other partnerships firmly in place.

MetroWest Collaborative Development.

Nate Robinson reported that the demographic and market analysis for the HPP were underway and a draft would be completed by the start of April.

HPP communications and outreach:

- The Dear Friend email has been finalized
- Talking points are still in process. Rachel will finalize the current draft
- We will schedule a Community Forum for the beginning of June. Tomi will check with the Beech Street Center and the Library for meeting space availability
- Trust members reviewed the organization contact list and signed up to contact the individual organizations and ask to address their next meeting.

Gerald Cloud at MWCD is working with students from the Harvard Design School and MIT Planning Department as part of the CHAPA/FHLBB competition; they are looking at housing development possibilities in Waverley Square. Tomi sent a note to Paul Tocci and Joe de Steffano, major parcel owners in the area, informing them of this planning activity.

Belmont Village Redesign. Proposals are due at the end of June for the DHCD planning grants to add market rate units at public housing sites to generate funds for upkeep and maintenance. The Housing Authority issued an RFP to hire a consultant to work with the BHA to prepare a proposal. The next critical activity is to solicit proposals from potential developer partners.

CPA. Gloria, who is a member of the Community Preservation Committee, recommended that several Trust members meet with the CPC regarding the HPP and the Committee's affordable housing priorities.

First Time Homebuyers Program. One of the lottery winners has an April deadline for finding a unit and the other has a May deadline.

Planning Board Update. No representatives from the Planning Board were in attendance.

General Administration: The Tri-Community Coalition to End Homelessness will hold a forum on homelessness on Sunday 24 April. The Housing Trust is a sponsor of the event and Rachel will serve as a panel member.

Submitted by Helen Bakeman