

Belmont Housing Trust Minutes for 3/18/10

In Attendance—Judie Feins, Roger Colton, Ann Silverman, Ann Verrilli, Charles Laverty III, Alisa Gardner-Todreas, Jonathan Jacoby

Minutes—The minutes for February 25, 2010, were approved as amended.

Massachusetts Housing Partnership (MHP) Grant—Steve Laferriere, Director of Housing Development for the Waltham Alliance to Create Housing (WATCH CDC) attended the meeting as Housing Project Manager for the newly formed MetroWest Collaborative. He will be assessing development projects in Belmont and came to hear about the Trust's suggestions for such projects and find out whom he should talk to in town. The following list was put forward:

- Underutilized residential and commercial properties in the Trapelo Road corridor between Waverley and Cushing Squares.
- Cushing Village development—the Trust might want to play a role in affecting public support, or by using HOME money to gain an additional affordable unit.
- Light Department Building—Roger suggested doing some up-front planning work and entering the Federal Home Loan competition.
- Moraine Street property that the owner expressed an interest in selling in the past; both Jeffrey Wheeler in the Development Office and the neighbors would probably welcome some action.
- Sandler Skate—long-standing vacant site that has had several unrealized projects put forward; there may be on-going litigation still tying it up. Mention was made of other properties on the market across the street on Concord Ave.
- A building behind the Bank of America in Waverley might become available.
- McLean land zoned for assisted living or continuing care; two developers have withdrawn and McLean might be interested in a proposal.
- Brighton Street parcel next to tracks—someone looked into a 40B development in the past.
- Purecoat property—neighbors would welcome something else, if the company will leave. There may be contamination, but Steve thought this could be to the advantage of a non-profit developer who could access clean-up funds.

Steve will spend some time checking out possible priorities (Moraine St., Light Dept., Sandler) and talk to Jeffrey Wheeler and others (Nancy Marsh, Jan Cruse, Mary Power). In about a month he will be ready to make an interim report on what he learns.

Judie mentioned that Belmont will have HOME money available by June of 2011. Ann S. brought up the possibility of MHP money being available for development planning. Steve will follow up on this.

Judie reported that Jennifer Van Campen did meet with the new Metro-West HOME Consortium coordinator. The use of administrative funds for the Collaborative is approved and pre-development funds will likely be available.

Community Preservation Act (CPA)—The March 1 meeting of the CPA working group heard from Kathy Roth of the Community Preservation Coalition who provided considerable valuable information from the experience of other communities. The next meeting is April 2.

Waverley Woods—The letter went to Nancy Marsh interpreting the Belmont preference rule and that family was accepted. All the units are now occupied. The Trust will hold its April 15 meeting in the manager's office at Waverley Woods.

Mandatory Ethics Training—At least four members of the Trust have completed the training; the deadline is April 12.

Other Business—

- The Annual Report for the Trust was submitted to Town on March 1.
- There was discussion of how the Trust might engage the issue of the ballot initiative to repeal 40B legislation. The Trust might want to co-sponsor a speaker with the League of Women Voters. Ann V. thought there was widespread misunderstanding about its past use in Belmont (three potential proposals, of which only one was realized). Roger will inquire with the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) about plans for a campaign and what local groups can do.

Submitted by Jonathan Jacoby