

- **Belmont Housing Trust Minutes for April 15, 2010**

- **In Attendance**— Judie Feins, Charles Laverty III, Ann Silverman, Ann Verrilli, Gloria Leipzig, Jonathan Jacoby, four residents of Waverley Woods and Steve Laferriere (MetroWest Collaborative)
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- **Preliminaries**—Those in attendance introduced themselves. Approval of the minutes was deferred until later due to the lack of a quorum.
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- **Discussion of Waverley Woods**—There was approximately one hour of discussion with Nancy, Sue and the Waverley Woods residents about living at WW. The conversation touched on housing issues in general, transportation, Council on Aging, the management, neighbors, town departments, Town library, schools, and the Department of Social Welfare. The comments were very positive about the quality of the WW facilities and management. Nancy Marsh was highly praised for her attention to her job. All the residents valued their apartments, with one saying “It’s the best place I’ve ever lived,” although she did miss Cambridge. A Vietnam Veteran with extensive medical problems spoke of his past struggles to find housing and the serious need for affordable housing for veterans.
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- **Adding Affordable Housing in Belmont**—Steve Laferriere reported on his activities since the last Trust meeting. He’s had some contact with Jeffrey Wheeler and will continue to try and get information from him. He collected data on the Moraine Street property and will call the owner to sound him out. He spoke to Cliff Boehmer about Cliff’s earlier work on the Sandler Skate site; Cliff is going to look for what he still has. It was suggested that the Light Department may have information on the current legal status of the property, due to their interest in it for a substation. Steve will move ahead on collecting information and report back if he has something of substance to share.
- Gloria said that Belmont is eligible for a Massachusetts Housing Partnership Technical Assistance grant; it is not necessary to have site control. It is thought that MHP may be amenable to smaller projects. The deadline is April 30 and Steve will see about writing a proposal after he talks to the Moraine Street owner. Gloria also reported that Jennifer Van Campen has not yet had confirmation from the Newton HOME consortium about the use of admin funds; Newton City Hall suffered serious damage in the recent floods.
- A short discussion about Cushing Village brought out two facts—the number of projected affordable housing units is decreasing and there is a need to counter the negative voices in Belmont about the desirability of the development.
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- **Community Preservation Act**—Judie reported on the April 12 meeting. Work goes on for a campaign aimed at the fall election, but it will not be launched until after the upcoming override vote.
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- **Other Business**—Ann S. had information that the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance is interested in working with suburban communities to use CPA money for housing. This means primarily communities that have passed CPA, but might they might be of assistance in our work to approve it for Belmont. She also reported that site work has begun at Our Lady of Mercy.
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- **Minutes**—The minutes for March 18, 2010, were approved as corrected.
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- Submitted by Jonathan Jacoby