

Weston Affordable Housing Trust Minutes

April 15, 2022

Housing Trust (HT) Members Present: Chair-Sarah Rhatigan, Thalia Price, Michael Price, Susan Haber, Tom Timko, Harvey Boshart, Neil Levitt

Associate Member Member: Jonathan Schwartz.

Also Present: Elizabeth Valenta (RHSO), Monyette Vickers (Brook School, Property Manager)

Governor's permission for online meetings read, and meeting convened at 8:36

Item 1: Public Comment:

There was no initial public comment.

Item 2: Minutes:

The Minutes of 3/30/22 were reviewed and approved with minor corrections.

Item 3: Homeownership Opportunity Fund discussed. A replenishment of the fund in the amount of \$1,000,000 has been proposed. This will be a Warrant item for Town Meeting. It was noted that the Finance Committee is expected to recommend against it. It is expected that Harvey Boshart will speak in its favor.

Item 4: Warren Avenue FY23 Budget and rent increase was discussed. The typical yearly rent increase is equal to the annually published Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), as stated in the rent policy for the property. This had been put on hold during the duration of the pandemic. A proposal was made that the increase be limited to not more 5% increase as the COLA is expected to be a greater increase for 2022. Trust voted in favor of the motion to revise rent policy and cap rent increases at the lesser of 5% or COLA.

A meeting with the Warren Avenue tenants had been proposed, but it has not yet occurred. Jonathan will work with Liz and Monyette to set this up, reviewing date options and will send a notice to all tenants by email, postal mailing and door knocking.

Item 5: Establishment of an advocacy organization to support the creation of affordable housing in Weston was proposed. Susan, Tom and Jonathan, assisted by Jody Kablack (RHSO) will work on this and will bring something back to the housing round table. They will discuss this proposal with Leon Gaumont, Town Manager.

Item 6: There was a sitewalk held recently at 0 Wellesley Street with a representative of the state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to review the planned development on that site. An appraisal is required, but can be waived. A site eligibility letter is required in order for Habitat to apply for a comprehensive permit to construct the units on the site. The waiver request is expected to be authorized by the Select Board at their next meeting. The state DHCD agency needs a formal application which is under preparation.

Item 7: EHC/Brook School proposal to add additional units at the Brook School Apartments will not be on the Warrant for Town Meeting. The Elderly Housing Commission to discuss their next moves as they work to bring this to the Town. Tom is anxious to have additional assistance in order to move this forward. The EHC is discussing how to accomplish this.

Item 8: Additional items were noted in passing, including the HPP, an accepted offer to purchase the Sunrise property by a local developer (who has indicated a desire to work with the Town on this), and the status of the Greatlands property, which is under review by the Planning Board.

Next WAHT meeting was scheduled for 5/17/22 at 8:30 AM.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.