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By Town Clerk's Office at 12:49 pm, Mar 30, 2022



Burlington Housing Partnership Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2022, via Webex

Committee Members Present: Michael Runyan (MR)
Kerry Donahue (KD), Vice-Chair
Eileen Sickler (ES), Secretary
Henry Wu (HW)

Committee Members Not Present: Rita Shah, John Sullivan (JS), Barbara L'Heureux
Other Attendees: Shari Ellis (SE), Liz Bonventre (LB)

- MR called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.
- **Housing Needs Assessment Report** – KD and LB will meet with MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) administrative contacts tomorrow. KD attended the first of three forums on March 1 which lasted approximately 90 minutes. Ten people were scheduled for the forum and nine were present. Some of the concerns mentioned were housing for seniors and overcrowding (doubling up in one home).
- **Presentation to the Select Board** – MR was pleased with the presentation and Boards' support for hiring a part-time consultant. ES will follow up regarding next steps and posting the job. We also discussed the charter for a standing committee and plan to present that to the Select Board in anticipation of presenting to September Town Meeting for approval.
- **119 S. Bedford St.** – We haven't heard from the property owners. MR reminded us there is a placeholder for the May town meeting in the event we want to purchase the house.
- **117 S. Bedford St.** – MR said the transaction is moving along and is expected to finish the end of March. The selling price was \$290,000.
- **Afghan placement** – MR emailed final draft of letter to approximately six property managers.
- **Grandview** – the review of the Grandview documents by the town's legal counsel since last year was mentioned in the SB presentation on February 28th. ES said she would follow up with the Town Administer over the next few weeks.

- **Rogers' Piano site** – LB offered to post the recording for the meeting held today with the Planning department, Land Use and SBRC. The current proposal includes 98 units with approximately 14 or 15 units listed as affordable. These will be single level condos. There was discussion about “how affordable is affordable” with Area Median Income of 80% and estimated asking price of \$700,000. SE, who is working with the Northwest Park development, asked to put the AMI percentage in the Developer Agreement as soon as possible. There is information on this proposal on the town’s website [Proposal for Rogers Piano site](#)
- **Housing Choice Initiative** – LB mentioned this initiative which will require towns that have MBTA bus stops, to offer a multi-family zoning, by right. Otherwise, towns will not be eligible for any funding from the Commonwealth. In March, the town’s legal counsel will explain the MBTA guidelines and the “allowed by right’ zoning in a presentation.
- **Minutes** – the minutes for the meetings on January 26 and February 15th were unanimously approved.
- **Old/New Business** – SE who is a member of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) committee, asked MR if they can present to our committee. MR said once we learn when the Housing Choice Initiative is scheduled, we can schedule our next meeting. At that time, the CPA committee is welcome to make a presentation.
- **Next Meeting** – TBD once learning the date of the Housing Choice Initiative presentation
- **Adjourned** – the meeting was adjourned at 5:50
- Respectfully Submitted,
Eileen Sickler, Secretary
- Approved: unanimously, March 29, 2022