

Newburyport Affordable Housing Trust Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024
Meeting Location: Senior Community Center
Members in Attendance: Susanne Cameron, Madeline Nash, Robert Currier, Mayor Reardon and Elaine Nickerson
Staff Present: Katelyn Sullivan, Andy Port
City Council: Ed Cameron

Welcome and Public Comment

Affordable Housing Trust (AHT or Trust) Co-Chair Madeline Nash called the meeting to order at 6pm and welcomed Trust members, staff and guests. Nash went over the agenda and asked for public comment. There were no public comments.

Housing Production Plan (HPP) Working Session with MVPC

The Merrimac Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) and the Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) reviewed Newburyport's draft 2024-2029 Housing Production Plan. Ian Burns from the MVPC met with AHT members to discuss the draft form, data, analysis, strategy list, action plan and accomplishments. After reviewing the draft, it was determined that AHT members would send MVPC further comments and that the group would meet next on 4/30 to go over a further revised draft.

Other Planning Office Updates

Katelyn Sullivan of the Planning Office, reminded the members that the AHT has submitted a letter to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) requesting that the required 10% of estimated annual revenue, including the state match go to the AHT. She noted that the YWCA has applied for funding in the amount of \$15,750. CPC deliberations will take place on 3/21. Sullivan also noted that FY19 and FY23 AHT grants from the CPC must be extended by this summer/fall and that Sullivan will put in a request to the CPC that these grants be extended. Sullivan noted that the new HOME PORT program is live. The webpage and application are here. Co-Chair Cameron said that there should be more outreach conducted for this program. Sullivan said that the Planning Office is working on creating an online submission portal to increase efficiency for applicants and staff and that she would continue to work with the Chief of Staff to get the word out through social media channels.

Planning Director Andy Port provided an update regarding the newly formed Zoning Advisory Group (ZAG) related to MBTA Communities and Storey Ave. zoning. Port said he is currently confirming the list of upcoming ZAG meeting dates and locations, which will be posted to the City Calendar accordingly. The representatives from AHT are Andrew Shapiro, Karen Weiner and Madeline Nash.

Co-Chair Nash thanked staff for update and made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Co-Chair Cameron seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.