

AHC minutes (02/04/14)

Meeting called to order 7:05 PM

Present: Alan Chaney, Carol Bacon. Mary Moeller, Margaret Abeyta (Bill Jennings arrived half way through meeting.)

Minutes of 11/19/13 approved as amended

Committee discussed articles from "Boston Globe" & "Lowell Sun" brought by Carol on Dunstable population trends for future. Now 3200; one prediction for 30% increase over next 20 years; seems high.

Carol met with Selectmen & got AHC "charge"; very general/broad.

Mary reported on Carlisle. Their housing website is very thorough; excellent blow-by-blow history of their program. Carlisle is about to open 3rd housing complex. Their projects are town-owned (rentals); mixed income & age level; nearly all from Carlisle; once renter is done with apt, it returns to town; #of units = 30 to 50; a town committee runs them.

We agreed to visit Carlisle as soon as weather eases.

Alan discussed possible housing sites in Town:

MUD district (behind P.O.) Mary wondered if some of area was within 100 Year floodplain, or in danger should Lower Dam on Massapoag give way. Committee agreed need to get definitive answer.

Best Triangle. (Alan waxed eloquent.)

Pelletier (River Street). Most of Committee unfamiliar with this parcel.

Discussed possibility of Town acquiring some or all of Dumont property Off Lowell Street. All agreed it would be ideal for several purposes, including public housing.

Committee agreed to visit sites when weather eases.

Carol raised point that in-law apartments can be designated affordable housing units. (With owner's agreement; requires zoning change.) Town has 27 permitted in-law apts.

Bill reported on discussions with police & fire chiefs. Both very positive, & provide important input now & in future.

Chief Downes: 3-4% of Town population mentally handicapped; 1% physically handicapped; 1.8-2% in poverty. Also strong need for downsizing.

Margaret: first action by Committee should be feasibility studies for various sites. General agreement. She pointed out could be funded by CPA money. Alan states this year's state match for Dunstable on CPA is 100%

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Alan Chaney, Sec.