

# Lenox Affordable Housing Committee

February 11, 2008

## Minutes

Members present: Dave Klausmeyer (DK), Chair, Theresa Ahrens (TA), Jo Anne Magee (JM), Olga Weiss (OW) and Kate McNulty-Vaughan (KV).

It was noted that Patty Quinn has resigned. Roscoe Sandlin (RS) is absent with notification.

Also in attendance: Mary Albertson (MA), Town Planner.

DK opened the meeting at 5:15 PM. MA distributed the revised tables. TA explained the changes she made to the tables. She made all the changes regarding the changes that were discussed at the last meeting. It was decided to leave Table #3 in its original form and explain it with text.

DK suggested that everyone take a few minutes and rank their five top options resulting in the following

<u>Option #</u>	<u># of Top 5 Votes</u>
1	5
2	2
3	0
4	1
5	0
6	4
7	0
8	1
9	3
10	0
11	4
12	4
13	2

The group agreed that options 1,6,11 and 12 were the best options. Options 2, 9 and 13 also have merit. Members reviewed the options that received zero votes. It was agreed to remove option 5. Members agreed to include option 3 but realize that it only applies to friendly 40 B projects. Members agreed to keep option 7 as a point of discussion but realize that the units will not help the town with its 10% requirement. Members agreed to keep option 10 but realize the town is not the catalyst but supports the concept and would support agencies that propose group housing.

OW asked about working with abutting communities such as Lee to create affordable housing opportunities. MA suggested that it is a great idea to work with neighboring communities but Lenox cannot get credit for units in another community. It was agreed

that Lenox should look at regional efforts for affordable housing. Discussion ensued regarding Lenox as a bedroom community and the fact the currently Pittsfield offers the best affordable housing opportunities. Members also discussed the fact Schweitzer-Mauduit (formerly Kimberly Clark) has significant land holdings in Lee that could be a resource for affordable housing units.

KV arrived at 5:55 PM and apologized for being late. Members gave her a brief review of the committee actions earlier in the meeting.

KV asked about Table 6. TA suggested adding additional census information regarding second home ownership – noted in the census as “seasonal, recreational or occasional”. KV noted that the 10% affordable housing count is based on full-time housing. MA will check with DHCD regarding this number. KV and MA noted that it is their understanding the DHCD uses the latest census information.

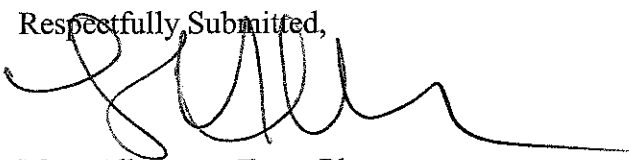
MA gave a brief overview of the Planning Board public information meeting regarding the zoning project. She noted that Inclusionary Zoning and the FAR – anti-McMansion provisions met with some resistance. The Planning Board might need to take extra time to develop these provisions for town meeting. She suggested that the committee members might need to be advocates for inclusionary zoning.

MA gave an update on the Peer-to-Peer program. She will contact Stuart and see if he is available to attend the February 25 or March 10 meeting.

It was noted Patty Quinn served as the Housing Authority representative to the committee and the Housing Authority is working to fill this position.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Albertson', written over the text 'Respectfully Submitted,'.

Mary Albertson, Town Planner

Approved: 2/25/08