

Affordable Housing Committee Meeting Minutes April 8, 2008

Present: Jane Dauphinais of SECT Housing Alliance, Marcella Hyland of LISC, Jim Kelley, Alisa Morrison, Tim Murney, Jason Vincent of Planimetrics.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The committee reviewed and discussed the Affordable Housing Plan draft (Phase 2) page by page. A new round of very minor revisions was made to strengthen and clarify language and organization. Among the changes, the suggestion was made to state that Stonington Borough is currently not included in the Affordable Housing Plan as it has its own independent planning and zoning authority.

At the end of the review and discussion, Jim Kelley moved to accept Phase 2 of the draft Affordable Housing Plan as complete. Alisa Morrison seconded. No discussion. Approval was unanimous. The motion was carried.

Marcella Hyland suggested that the committee reach out to stake holders in the community and ask for input i.e. Stonington Board of Selectmen. She also suggested that state officials should be involved with presenting the plan to the Stonington Planning and Zoning Commission. Suggestions were made to include in the public information campaign faith-based organizations, major employers in town, Fairfield, CT officials who can attest to the social and economic impact of a lack of affordable housing in their area. Jim Kelley suggested meeting with Stonington selectmen one-on-one to get their input. Alisa Morrison agreed to set up a meeting with Ed Haberek, Bill Haase, and Keith Brynes. Tim Murney agreed to meet with Bill Brown. Jim Kelley agreed to meet with Peter Balestracci.

Jane Dauphinais said the faith-based group United Action got the Sea Spray development in East Lyme approved by "filling the room." It was suggested that United Action be asked to write letters to the editors of local newspapers. Jane Dauphinais also suggested briefing the press before any public information hearing because it helps generate public interest. It was also suggested to take the plan to the state Dept. of Economic Development and CHFA to show them what our town is working on. Marcella Hyland suggested asking LISC head Leslie Higgins Biddle for her advice about who we should enlist for support from the state level. Marcella will set up a meeting with her.

Jim Kelley moved to approve that Tom Hyland issue payment of \$5,000 to Planimetrics. Alisa Morrison seconded. No discussion. Approval was unanimous. The motion was carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. Next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 7 p.m.

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