

WAYLAND HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Minutes – April 21, 2015

Submitted by Rachel G. Bratt

Unanimously approved on June 2 by all those who had been in attendance at the April meeting, except Chris DiBona, who was absent from the June meeting.

Attending: Chris DiBona, Kathy Boundy, Rachel Bratt, Pat Harlan, Marty Nichols, Armine Roat

At 7:45, Rachel called the meeting to order.

We briefly discussed the recent Annual Town Meeting. The focus had been on the Town's decision not to purchase Town Center property for a senior center; failed the 2/3 vote needed. It was noted, however, that the next night of Town Meeting, money was approved to study the appropriateness of the site, specifically in relation to its environmental challenges.

We were joined by Jennifer van Campen, Executive Director of the Metro West Collaborative Development, a nonprofit housing organization; Wayland is included in their service area. They focus on building/maintaining affordable housing; housing advocacy and education; and connecting people who need housing to available units in the area. They are also now serving as a consultant to five towns beyond their target area, that have pooled resources to get advice/assistance around housing issues (Stow, Hudson, Littleton, Boxborough, and Bolton). Jennifer suggests that a good model may be for towns like Wayland to collaborate more with neighboring communities. It may even be possible to pool CPA resources, but no one was clear about whether/how that would work.

Other interests/services of the organization include helping to reconfigure older public housing developments in need of repair, including increasing density of a new development on the public housing site; monitoring 40B and other deed-restricted developments; updating Housing Production Plans; administering down payment assistance programs for deed-restricted programs (e.g., Belmont); and developing small special needs projects, with as few as 6 units. We agreed that it would be good to keep in touch.

Our general meeting continued with Marty moving to accept the minutes of Feb. 17. Seconded by Kathy. Unanimously approved.

Chris noted that River's Edge is getting closer to issuing an RFP, perhaps by early summer.

Habitat project continues to move along. Pat noted that there is another Women's Build day scheduled. Members uniformly registered their disapproval of Habitat's practice of asking for contributions when people sign up. We also heard that when church groups volunteer, they are also asked for contributions. Volunteering and financial contributions should not, in our opinion, be linked.

Rachel mentioned that Fred's church, the Church of the Holy Spirit, will be closing on June 30. There is a possibility that the land could be available, possibly for housing. Rachel will explore. There was also some discussion about the possibility that the Saint Ann's Church site will also become available at some point.

Several possible times for our next meeting were discussed. Rachel will send an email to members.

At 9:02 Marty made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris.