

RIDGEFIELD AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2003 – 7:00 PM

Town Hall – 400 Main Street, Ridgefield

Small Conference Room, Lower Level

PRESENT: Dave Goldenberg (Chair), Kent Rohrer (Vice Chair), Kevin Brown, Whit Campbell, Sharon Coleman, Debra Franceschini-Gatje, Sheryl Knapp, Lori Mazzola, and Krista Willett

ABSENT:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Public Comment:

- a) **John Tartaglia:** he understands that the RAHC has involved itself in the Ethan Allen project, and asked whether that was the case and why; he doesn't think the Committee has the authority, and that the that Committee is acting without authorization.

2. New Business:

- a) **Email correspondence:** Dave read a letter he had distributed via email regarding the Committee issuing a formal statement regarding the property on 877 Ethan Allen Highway. Committee members expressed concerns regarding whether it would comply with affordable housing regulations, and whether they are offering a high enough percentage of affordable units considering what they would be required to do under 8-30g. It was agreed that more information is required for the Committee to decide whether to issue the statement. Dave will be setting up a special meeting to discuss via phone or videoconference.
- b) **Update on Charter Vision Committee:** Numerous letters were submitted to the Charter Vision Committee, some requesting that the RAHC be appointed as a Charter committee and some opposed. The CVC voted 4-3 not to designate the RAHC as a Charter Committee. The only way the RAHC can become a Charter Committee within the next 4 years is by appointment by the Selectmen.
- c) **Report Card (Debra):** Debra distributed a Report Card to Committee members to complete as a Committee at the meeting. She expressed concerns that the Ridgefield Housing Authority is not doing everything they can to help us to meet our affordable housing objectives. Dave moved that all Committee members take the document home to review, and come back at the next meeting with proposals for creating a framework for evaluating the Committee's work. Debra moved to table the motion; Lori seconded. Lori and Debra voted in favor; Dave, Kent, Krista, Sharon, Sheryl and Kevin opposed; Whit abstained. Motion did not pass. After extensive discussion, the Committee then voted on the motion to revisit the document at the next meeting in order to provide members with the opportunity for review – Whit, Kent, Sharon, Kevin, Sheryl, Dave, and Krista voted in favor; Debra and Lori opposed. Motion passes.

3. **Recess to Board of Selectman Hearing re: 877 Ethan Allen Highway @7:30**
2. **The Committee reconvened following the hearing at 8:32.** Debra made a motion to reconvene; Lori seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.
3. **New business (cont'd):**
 - d) Debra reached out to a bank representative at Fairfield County Bank who offered to speak to the public about CHFA funds that are available, to be held at the library. All Committee members supported the initiative, and will help promote the event via the website and other vehicles. Kevin moved that the RAHC sponsor one or more informational sessions to be presented by a representative of Fairfield County Bank regarding CHFA and other financial assistance programs for low- and middle-income home buyers; Sheryl seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Debra also proposed discussing the use of ADU's, with a specific focus on helping seniors to age in place; Dave will put it on the next meeting agenda. Committee members also indicated support for the discussion also encompassing other initiatives that would support seniors.
4. **Current Business:**
 - a) **State feasibility study grant – site-determination process.** Dave has written the Commissioner twice regarding documenting that the Committee can use the remaining grant money for other purposes, but has not heard back; he will try again. He also reached out to State Representative Aimee Berger-Girvalo, who indicated that she will get an answer.
 - b) **Web presence – next steps:** The new website is live. Sharon to write a press release announcing the new site, emphasizing that it is a work in progress.
5. **Public Comment:** none
6. **Review Previous Minutes:** Kent moved to accept the minutes from the 3/22/2023; Lori seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.
7. **Next meeting:** The next Regular meeting is scheduled for 5/24/2023.
8. **Adjourn:** Sheryl moved to adjourn; Lori seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:28.