

RIDGEFIELD AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

Meeting minutes 5/6/2020

Ridgefield Town Hall

Members present via Zoom conference call: Dave Goldenberg, Kevin Brown, Kent Rohrer Guests: Lori Mazzola, Whit Campbell, Sheryl Knapp, Krista Willet, Vincent Liscio (RHA ex-officio)

Dave called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Minutes of March meeting were amended and unanimously approved.

The committee congratulated Lori Mazzola and Sheryl Knapp, who were interviewed and approved by the Board of Selectmen as committee members earlier in the evening. Once sworn in they will become voting members.

Covid-19 impact discussion: Vincent provided an update on actions by the Housing Authority being taken to simultaneously hold or defer rent increase paid by residents, while preserving the increase in support from the State. Dave suggested that RAHC could partner with the Housing Authority and Social Services on some communication and information sources. Dave will discuss with the town social worker and RHA chair. Vinnie will request to share information recently published by the housing authority.

Homefront: The grant application noted in April meeting was presented by Dave to the BOS. The BOS approved the grant request which will be submitted to the State once a certified copy of the resolution has been obtained. Dave also reported that he spoke with Francisco Gomes of Fitzgerald Halliday Inc. about their availability for and interest in providing support for the project. Francisco is already working with at least one other community in the state on this.

Interim Projects

- a. Ridgefield affordable housing overlay zone update (MADZ:) Steve Zemo has agreed to participate in our June meeting.
- b. Housing for adults with disabilities: Sheryl reports that group homes remain challenged in the face of Covid-19 with many families bringing family members home during the crisis. Contact will be made with John Loehr, formerly president of Sunrise Cottage and an advisor to Ability Beyond, to obtain status of group homes in Ridgefield.
- c. Branchville TOD : No updates.
- d. P&Z 8-30g compliance : No updates.
- e. Bailey and Prospect building. Dave indicated there has not been any property transfer as of this time.
- f. Housing trust fund : Lori provided update on her investigation into trust funds and the existence of many examples. It was suggested that researching options and best practices in communities in CT would be the most effective approach. Dave will seek a full list from LISC. Lori will start with Fairfield CT.
- g. Habitat building site in Ridgefield. Dave suggested using the WestCog mapping application to help identify potential Town owned land. Kent agreed to investigate.

h. Patriot Gardens: No updates

With no additional old or new business, the meeting was called to close at 7:55pm. Next meeting 6/3/20 at 7pm.

Prepared by Kent Rohrer, Secretary