

PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

FEBRUARY 6, 2014

2nd Floor Conference Room

Board members present:

Gladys Lavine, Chair

Betty Jane Owen Ron Wolanski, Planning Director

Charlene Rose-Cirillo Frank Holbrook, Assistant Town Solicitor

Matthew Sullivan

Pete Marnane

John Ciummo

Arthur Weber

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Lavine at 4:00pm.

1. Review and discussion of comments received from Statewide Planning resulting from preliminary review of the draft Middletown comprehensive plan update - Housing Element.

Mr. Wolanski introduced Steve Ostiguy and Christian Belden of Church Community Housing Corporation to discuss strategies for the town to consider in its Comprehensive Community Plan Housing Element. The state requires that the element include a plan for the town to meet its 10% affordable housing goal.

Mr. Ostiguy discussed to current state of federal funding of housing. It has been significantly reduced over the past several years.

Mr. Ostiguy and Mr. Belden discussed several options for the town to

consider, including inclusionary housing (Tiverton has an inclusionary housing ordinance. Density bonus should be considered.); conversion of mobile home parks to cooperatives; assisting with expansion/conversion of existing facilities (Oxbow, Landings, Lucy's Hearth, Forest Farm); incorporation of housing in future development, such as the Coddington/West Main development; creation of a town affordable housing trust fund to assist with funding development (Jamestown has such a program).

Mr. Ostiguy stated that a portion of future CDBG funding will be dedicated to housing creation.

There was discussion of the local needs for housing. Mr. Ostiguy stated that there is need for affordable rental housing, housing for the disabled, and first time home buyers.

The board thanked Mr. Ostiguy and Mr. Belden for their help. The board will consider the ideas for inclusion in the plan.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Cirillo, seconded by Ms. Owen. Vote: 7-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ronald Wolanski

Planning Director