

WARREN AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

Meeting of January 23, 2007

I. Call Meeting to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Joanne DeVoe. Members present included commission members Thomas Mack, Joanne DeVoe, Jim Nightingale, and Freda Doyle. Also in attendance was Chris Fuller, who stated his intention of applying for the open seat on the board, and Michelle Maher, Town Planner.

II. Election of Officers

Mr. Nightingale nominated Joanne DeVoe as Chair, with a second from Mr. Mack. Ms. DeVoe nominated Mr. Mack for Vice Chair, but Mr. Mack indicated he would be willing to sit as Secretary, therefore Ms. DeVoe changed her nomination to nominate Mr. Mack as Secretary, which was seconded by Mr. Nightingale. Ms. Doyle nominated Mr. Nightingale as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Mack. Ms. DeVoe called a vote on all nominations, the vote was unanimous to approve all nominations.

III. Discussion of Board Goals

Ms. DeVoe reviewed both the resolution enacted by the Town Council delineating the duties of the board and the guidelines for the board as enacted as part of the Low and Moderate Income Housing Plan, within the Comprehensive Plan. It was discussed that both documents would apply to the board, but that official reports should

be handled by town staff, because of the advisory status of the board. Ms. Maher agreed.

IV. Discussion of Pending Development Projects

Ms. DeVoe initiated a dialog concerning statements made by Meredith Management, the developer proposing to convert the former American Tourister building into 350 housing units mixed with some commercial uses. At the first public hearing with the planning board Mr. John Rosenthal stated he would deem 10% of the proposed units affordable, but that they would not count to the overall town percentage because they would not be deed restricted and Ms. DeVoe asked if that could be changed. Ms. Maher stated that she believed the town could work with the developer, Rhode Island Housing, and East Bay CDC to insure that the proposed 35 units mentioned by Mr. Rosenthal would count toward the town's overall low/mod percentage. Mr. Mack made a motion to forward a letter to Meredith Management thanking them for doing their fair share and express that the board would like the developer to work with Ms. Maher and other board to insure these units came to be deemed as long-term affordable units. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nightingale and passed unanimously.

V. Discussion of Pending Low and Moderate Income Housing Proposals

Ms. Maher updated the board as to the status of the St. Casmir housing proposal on Child Street, the St. Jean's rectory conversion

and the possible proposal from EBCDC for 509 Child Street. Mr. Mack made a motion to send a letter supporting the St. Casmir to the Planning Board to be included as part of that board's official public hearing record. The motion was seconded by Ms. Doyle and passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Mack to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. DeVoe. The commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

minutes approved 1/29/2007