

# **WARREN AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD**

## **Minutes**

**Meeting of April 3, 2007**

### **I. Call Meeting to Order**

**The Meeting was called to order by Chair Joanne DeVoe at 7:05 p.m. Members present included Thomas Mack, Joanne DeVoe, Jason Ferri and Freda Doyle. Also in attendance was Town Council President Frank Alfano.**

### **II. Adoption of Minutes**

**A motion was made by Mr. Ferri to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2007 and January 29, 2007 meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mack and passed unanimously.**

### **III. Reports and Updates**

#### **A. Housing Consortium**

**Mr. Mack made a further report on the East Bay Housing consortium proposal which was discussed at the last meeting. The timeline required by the consortium for committing to the project was too short to present the idea before the Town Council and hence it could not be adopted. Also the town of Barrington opted out of the consortium and since the members of the consortium must be geographically contiguous this eliminated Warren from participation. Mr. Mack will report next meeting regarding the current status of the consortium going forward.**

#### **B. Correspondence**

The board has heard no response to past correspondence however Mr. Alfano did report that the planning board had read and accepted the board's letter of January 29.

#### **IV. Pending Development Proposals**

Ms. De Voe brought Mr. Alfano up to date on the board's discussion of inclusionary zoning and inquired as to whether something like this might be adopted. Mr. Alfano suggested writing a letter to the Town Council with some of the board's ideas.

Mr. Alfano delivered an update on the Tourister Mill project. The project has been given preliminary approval by the planning board with certain conditions. One of these conditions is a height restriction which may reduce the number of overall units and possibly affect Meredith Management's willingness to add affordable units. However another of the conditions is to have 10% of the units be affordable with 30 year deed restrictions. Mr. Alfano also discussed the possibility of density bonuses for Tourister and other projects.

Mr. Alfano gave a brief update on the Liberty Street and Mary V. Quirk school buildings. General opinion is that the MV Quirk building will be used for Head Start but that Liberty St. has a good chance of becoming affordable housing at some point in the future.

#### **V. Strategies for Implementing the Affordable Housing Plan**

. The board discussed with Mr. Alfano the need for action by other entities (i.e. Zoning, Planning, Town Council) in order to adopt the recommendations contained in the Affordable Housing Plan. The

implementation of the Affordable Housing Plan will require changes to zoning and other ordinances. Mr. Alfano suggested writing a letter to the Town Council which would be forwarded to other boards. Mr. Ferri suggested a wide ranging letter which would give the other boards plenty of options. The other members agreed to this concept. Mr. Ferri also suggested encouraging the changing of the Carol Cable area zoning as a priority in order to have the zoning in place before that mill is redeveloped. The members also agreed to this. Mr. Mack will circulate a draft of the letter as soon as possible

#### **VI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Ferri to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Doyle. The commission voted unanimously to adjourn. The next meeting will be May 1, 2007

**Minutes Drafted 4/7/2007**

**Thomas Mack, Secretary**