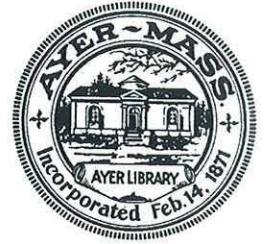


# Town of Ayer

## Department of Community & Economic Development

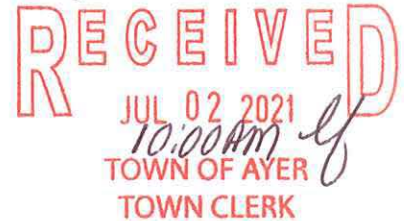
Town Hall ♦ One Main Street ♦ Ayer, MA 01432 ♦ 978-772-8220 ♦ Ext.142



### Minutes of April 16, 2021– Ayer Affordable Housing Committee (AAHC)

Location: Zoom Meeting, Ayer Town Hall

**Members Present:** Janet Providakes, Ken Diskin & Ron Morrison,  
Karin Swanfeldt joined the meeting at 10:25.  
Ken Diskin left the meeting at 10:27 am.



**Also, Present:** Alicia Hersey, AAHC Administrator, Community Development Program Manager

**Janet Providakes, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM:** Ms. Providakes read the Covid open meeting zoom requirements and requested the board introduce themselves.

**Agenda:** Ron Morrison made a motion to approve the agenda, Ken Diskin seconded it. Unanimous vote to approve the agenda. (3-0-0)

**Minutes March 19, 2021:** Ken Diskin made a motion to accept the March 19, 2021 minutes as written including the attachment of the Environmental Justice map of the Town, Ron Morrison second. Unanimous vote to approve the minutes. (3-0-0)

**Public Input:** Ms. Hersey reported that James O'Connor had reached out to the Committee explaining that he would be running for temporary Town Moderator at the upcoming Town Meeting, he requested that we share our Warrant Article presentation with him allowing him to prepare, should he win temporary Town Moderator for the evening. Janet Providakes reported that the Committee had received approval for a brief presentation which would be posted prior to the Town meeting.

### **Ayer Spring Town Meeting – Trust Bylaw Presentation**

Janet Providakes announced that Ayer Spring Town meeting would be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the High School Auditorium. The meeting will compile with COVID-19 protocols. Ms. Providakes announced that the Committees “Affordable Housing Trust Bylaw” will be warrant article 28 and the entire bylaw would be printed as the Warrant Article. Ms. Providakes reported that the only addition was the inclusion of the July 1<sup>st</sup> date for the Town Annual Report.

Janet Providakes shared her draft Affordable Housing Trust Presentation for Town Meeting. Ron Morrison suggested that some pictures would be a good addition and the Committee agreed. Ken Diskin suggested that we change the third slide where several acronyms were used, referencing state housing organizations and replace it with “regional and state housing agency/authorities”. Ron Morrison suggested an index of terms and agencies be included, but it was decided that because the presentation was electronic and not a handout that an index would not work. Ron Morrison suggested that “CPC” be



written out as Community Preservation Committee. Ron Morrison raised the importance of educating the community on what Affordable Housing is and who would qualify. Ms. Providakes reiterated the importance of Public Input sessions as a good means of getting the information to the public regarding Affordable Housing. It was agreed that at Town Meeting it was important to stay focused on the Trust and the importance of the Trust for Affordable Housing in the Town of Ayer. With a plan to have future public information sessions to enhance community education on Affordable Housing.

### **Ayer Housing Trust / Board of Trustees Interview Questions**

Ms. Providakes reviewed the proposed questions for the Trustee interviews. She thanked Ron Morrison for his question suggestions. Ken Diskin asked if we were planning to interview everyone who had applied to be considered for the Trust and was told "yes" we would be interviewing everyone who applied. Ken Diskin then asked if each committee that was sending a member to serve on the Trust was supposed to make their own decision on who to send. Janet Providakes explained that each committee or board sending a representative to the Trust would choose their own representative, leaving only three at large members to be appointed by the Select Board.

Ron Morrison stated that he felt it was important to interview all 9 of the applicants interested in the three at large positions. It was agreed that the questions should be standard and the same for all candidates. The Committee expressed their excitement at seeing new people who have not volunteered within the Town before, applying to be Trust members.

The Committee decided that they would send the top five choices to the Select Board allowing the Select Board to appoint three at large Trustees to the Ayer Affordable Housing Trust. The Committee agreed on the following four questions:

- Tell us about your background.
- Why are you interested in being on the Board?
- What do you see as the benefits of living in Ayer?
- What is your past experience if any in Affordable Housing?

### **Interviews Affordable Housing Trust Applicants**

The Board agreed to set up an Interview meeting for Wed. the 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30-8:30, and a second meeting on Wed. the 28<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30. Alicia Hersey reported that the Committee would not be allowed to go into executive session to discuss the interviews. It was agreed that each member would list their top 5 choices in the order of preference.

### **Old/New Business**

Janet Providakes reported that she updated the Committees Annual Report Statement. Alicia Hersey reported that MHP's Housing Institute will be held on three Thursdays of June.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Karin Swannfeldt motioned to adjourn, Ron Morrison seconded.

