

Town of Ayer

Department of Community & Economic Development

Town Hall ♦ One Main Street ♦ Ayer, MA 01432 ♦ 978-772-8221 ♦ 978-772-3017 (fax)



Minutes of September 18, 2020– Ayer Affordable Housing Committee

Location: Zoom Meeting, Ayer Town Hall

Members Present: Janet Providakes, Karin Swanfeldt, Ken Diskin, Ron Morrison joined the meeting at 10:05.

Also Present: Alicia Hersey, Committee Administrator & Community Development Program Manager, Sara Withee from the public

Janet Providakes, called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

General Business

Approve the Agenda

Karin Swanfeldt made a motion to approve the agenda, Ken Diskin seconded. Unanimous vote to approve the agenda. (3-0-0)

Approve Meeting Minutes August 24, 2020

A motion was made by Ken Diskin to approve the minutes from August 24th 2020. Karin Swanfeldt seconded the motion. Vote to approve the minutes. (3-0-0)

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Proposed Housing Trust – CPC & Warrant & Bylaw Review

Janet Providakes reported on the CPC approved the request by Ayer Affordable Housing Committee of \$30,000 seed money for the Ayer Affordable Housing Trust and they will take the request to Fall Town Meeting. The CPC request that we tie in master plan goals and uses of money.

Alicia Hersey reported that Town Manager Robert Pontbriand had explained that the Town Meeting warrant article did not need to include the bylaws. She also reported that the Town Managers office requested that the committee do a presentation of the proposed Ayer Affordable Housing Trust at the Oct. 6th Select Board meeting.

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A discussion was had as to the importance of public input being a part of the Trust bylaws for the spending of large dollar amounts. Ken Diskin was worried about encumbering the trust. Janet Providakes said she did not see other town's with housing trusts that required public input but suggest we could look at doing it for large scale acquisitions. Ken Diskin emphasized that he was comfortable with public information session just not the requirements of public hearings. Ken Diskin recommends that these types of procedures should be in the Boards Rules and Regulations not in the Bylaw. Ken Diskin requested a clarification on the requirement of Town Meeting vote on the bylaw.

The committee agreed that the Warrant Article needed to be separated from the Bylaw and two separate documents created. Ron Morrison suggested that the Warrant be as simple as possible for bring in front of Town Meeting. Janet Providakes shared a document with the outline of what the warrant would look like. It was agreed that the board would review the draft warrant article at their September 21st public input session.

Review Housing Trust Brochure – Designed by Sara Withee

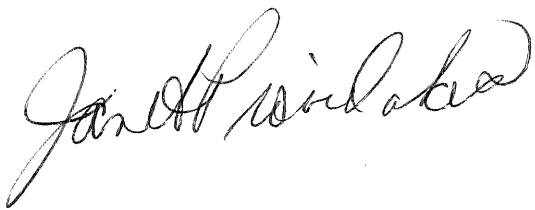
Karin Swanfeldt voiced how “beautifully” the Affordable Housing Trust brochure was and she noted that it was very reader friendly. The committee agreed and thanked Sara Withee for her work on the brochure.

Discussion

Alicia Hersey brought up that calls have picked up for rental assistance in the Community and Economic Development Office. Ron Morrison reported that the rental market is stabilizing and that the rental market is “opening up”.

Meeting adjourned

Karin Swanfeldt made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 11:00. (4-0-0)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Janet Providakes". The signature is written in dark ink and is located at the bottom left of the page.