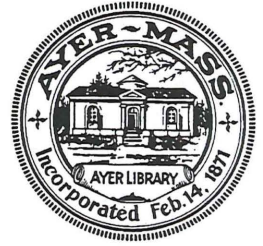


Town of Ayer

Department of Community & Economic Development

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



Minutes of November 20, 2020– Ayer Affordable Housing Committee

Location: Zoom Meeting, Ayer Town Hall

Members Present: Janet Providakes, Karin Swanfeldt, Ken Diskin, Sara Withee

Also Present: Alicia Hersey, Committee Administrator & Community Development

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

General Business

Approve the Agenda

Ken Diskin made a motion to amend and approve the agenda, Karin Swanfeldt seconded. Unanimous vote to approve the agenda. (4-0-0)

Approve the Minutes for September 18, 2020

Karin Swanfeldt made a motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2020, Sara Withee seconded. Motion passed unanimously. (4-0-0)

Approve the Minutes for October 16, 2020

Janet Providakes proposed two spelling corrections on the October minutes. Ken Diskin made a motion to accept the October 16, 2020 minutes as corrected. Sara Withee seconded. Motion passed unanimously. (4-0-0)

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Janet Providakes spoke about the Friday morning meeting time slot and questioned whether the public had enough access. She encouraged the public to reach out to herself or Alicia Hersey the committee administrator with questions they might want addressed. The possibility of having some 7 pm meetings was discussed, but members talked about the need for consistency and that there were not many evening meeting slots available. Ken Diskin suggested we continue with our Friday morning meeting time. Sara Withee recommended we do some more community outreach with quarterly or bi-annual public information sessions in the evening. The Committee members agreed this was a good idea, especially as things progress.

Housing Trust – Bylaws

Janet Providakes explained the Committee needed to prepare the Housing Trust Bylaws for Spring Town meeting. Town Counsel has reviewed an older draft of the Bylaws and made edits. Ms. Providakes had combined the edits with the new draft and

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said she would provide all copies of the drafts and edits to the Committee members for review at the Dec. meeting.

Ms. Providakes said she was approached after the Fall Town Meeting by two residents regarding the Trustee positions available on the new Affordable Housing Trust which had just passed Town Meeting. Geoff Tillotson and Pauline Conley requested their names be put forward for consideration as Affordable Housing Trust Trustees. Janet Providakes mentioned the Committee has suggested Mr. Shaun Copeland be the Select Board member on the Trust.

Alicia Hersey and Janet Providakes updated the committee on a short video they had produced, thanking everyone at Town meeting for passing the warrant, creating and funding the new Affordable Housing Trust. They also announced on this video the Committee was looking for residents who might want to serve on the Housing Trust. It was mentioned there is a volunteer link on the Town website.

Discussion – Neighboring Town Development Plans & Process

Alicia Hersey updated the committee on the Groton Housing Trust outreach regarding Surrenden Farm possible affordable housing development and the contact that Town departments had regarding this discussion. Ms. Hersey outlined that it was preliminary contact.

Discussion

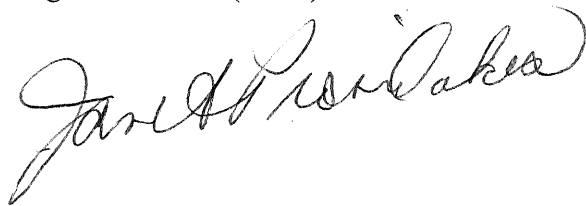
- Old Business

The Flagg property proposed 40B was discussed and that moved to a general discussion regarding the need for affordable rental housing in our community.

- New Business

Meeting adjourned

Ken Diskin made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 11:35am. (4-0-0)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janet Providakes", written in black ink.