**Affordable Housing Trust Meeting**

**Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020**

Virtual “Zoom” meeting at 4pm

Hosted by Gwen Miller, Lenox Land Use Director/Town Planner

**Trust Members Present**: Chair MaryBeth Mitts (MBM), Jackie McNinch (JM),

Kate McNulty-Vaughan (KM-V), Mindi Morin (MM), Charlene Rosen (CR), Olga Weiss (OW), Julie DiGrigoli (JD)

AH Committee: none Also attending: Mike Wilser

**Documents available or shared during meeting:** Minutes;

Proposed Blantyre Expansion Requirement of Inclusionary Housing – Terms and Conditions;

Request for Proposals for Fair Housing Affirmative Marketing Services

**Minutes**: **July 30, 2020 Minutes**: MM motion to approve as written, JM second, rollcall vote: Ayes: MBM, JD, JM, MM; abstaining: CR & KM-V (absent at 7-30-20 mtg.); (OW joined meeting after vote taken).

**Sept. 10 meeting Minutes**: not available

**Updates:**

**Purchase of 8 Hynes St.:**

Land Use Dir. Gwen Miller informed the Trust that Town Counsel had reached out to DHCD for feedback on the Hynes opportunity for affordable housing and the P & S options on the properties. The RFP for vendors to administer the program is being reviewed. The appraisal is underway, and that questions concerning lead and the state guidelines on this will need to be locked down as the Trust moves forward with this purchase agreement.

**Blantyre Agreement:**

JD raised questions about signing off on this agreement, and clarity about legal ratification or votes needed, as well as a timeline for taking control of the properties and the condition of and any lease agreements affecting the existing Patterson Rd. house and properties. Gwen advised that the signed agreement would be recorded with the Special Permit (ZBA) and the deed. The agreement includes a required appraisal of the residential lots and s.f. residence no later than 90 days prior to Blantyre pulling building permits. Gwen responded to OW’s question about road access and clarified that the lots were buildable and had received both Conservation Commission (ConComm) and Planning Board approval. It is hoped that the Patterson Rd. house might also be available for the Fair Housing Lottery process in the same timeframe as the first Hynes St. house.

**Members of the Trust voted unanimously to accept the agreement with Blantyre**, as follows:

**KM-V moved that the *Lenox Affordable Housing Trust accepts the Terms and Conditions of the Proposed Blantyre Expansion voluntary compliance with the Inclusionary Housing contributions specified and agreed to by the Lenox Zoning Board of Appeals in the Special Permit*, and seconded by MM. Rollcall vote: Ayes in favor of the motion: Mitts, McNulty-Vaughan, Morin, DiGrigoli, Rosen, McNinch, Weiss.**

**Covid-19 Rental Assistance – Construct:** No report

**Review and Approval of RFP for Fair Housing Services:**

MBM indicated the RFP would be issued on Oct. 2 with an Oct. 16 deadline for submissions, and thanked CR and Julie for edits. Hynes property owner Linda Shafiroff would like the Trust to take title by Nov. 1. Selection of the Services vendor will be Nov. 16; Gwen will handle publicity and questions. The selection process would entail 2 meetings: the first for a public opening of the bids, followed by a decision meeting.

**OW made a motion proposing that the Trust move ahead with the RFP, seconded By CR. Rollcall vote: unanimous approval from Trust members: OW, CR, JM, MM, JD, MBM, KM-V.**

**Trust Declaration Revew**:

KM-V introduced the possibility of amending the Trust Declaration with respect to its designated members, and collapsing the Committee and Trust into 1 group. Trust members advised proposing ideas and motions to Gwen to circulate for future consideration by to the Trust and Committee. As Gwen noted, the Trust has the legal authority and responsibility for Affordable Housing, and the Committee’s purpose is not clear.

In the meantime, current members who wish to continue on the Trust and/or Committee were advised by MBM to send a letter of intent to the BOS for consideration as they make appointments to Town committees following the Annual Town Meeting (Sept. 26, 2020). Members also indicated interest by others in serving. MBM will also confer with the BOS (as the appointing authority) on their interest in “collapsing” the Committee and Trust into 1 entity.

MBM reminded members that the much delayed **Annual Town Meeting** will be **Saturday, Sept. 26 at 1pm** on the soccer field at LMMHS. The meeting was adjourned by consensus.

Next meeting: Oct. 15 at 6 or 7pm.

Submitted by: Kate McNulty-Vaughan