

Approved as written

## **Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee Minutes**

April 17, 2024 at 5:15pm

Small Conference Room

93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, RI 02835

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:15pm. The following members were present: Quaker Case, Job Toll, Susan Gorelick, Bob Plain, Dave Pritchard, Wayne Moore, Lisa Bryer and Fred Pease.

Not present: Mary Meagher

Also present: Carrie Kolb; Mary Forman

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

- a. February 21, 2024 - review, discussion and/or action and/or vote

A motion was moved by Toll and seconded by Case to approve the minutes from February 21, 2024 as written. All in favor.

- b. March 20, 2024 - review, discussion and/or action and/or vote

A motion was moved by Moore and seconded by Toll to approve the minutes from March 20, 2024 as written. All in favor.

### **III. Friends of the Jamestown Housing Authority Fundraiser**

Plain, speaking as a member of the public because he recused himself because he is also commissioner for the Housing Authority, said that the Friends of Jamestown Housing is having a fundraiser on Tuesday, April 30, 2023 at Beech Restaurant. Friends of Jamestown Housing is a local non-profit and it is not affiliated with Jamestown Housing Authority (JHA). The funds raised will help renovate the bathrooms at JHA, which are not ADA compliant. Plain said that housing authorities are always underfunded and maintenance goes to the wayside.

Case asked if the committee should be working with the Jamestown Housing Authority? Plain said that he thinks so. At the next meeting the committee will discuss how it can partner with JHA.

### **IV. Affordable Housing Bond**

- a. Next steps/debrief
- b. Jamestown Sustainable Resident Program Memo from Councilor Meagher dated 2/28/24 - review, discussion and/or action and/or vote (5 min)

A bond for Affordable Housing was not given a warrant to present at the financial town meeting this year. The council did put in the budget \$100,000 in trust fund for this year. Also, there is a concrete number for what is in affordable housing trust fund. The committee raised awareness for affordable housing during this past year. The hope is that next year during the budget cycle, we will ask for a bond and it will happen.

Discussion ensued regarding explaining the bond to the people of Jamestown. Over the coming year, the committee needs to figure out how to frame it. If the Town Councilors had trouble understanding what the bond would be used for, then the public will not know. How do we mitigate confusion? Bryer said that there was a housing forum held before and we could use that as a starting point.

Discussion ensued regarding forming subcommittees, which include: sustainable resident program, communications, budget. Plain said that the committee may not have sustainable resident program on its plate anymore as Solicitor Ruggerio is forming regulations. Case said that Mary Meagher said at a previous meeting that she will ask Marla Romash to speak at the meeting about communications. Toll said that the committee needs to have the budget ready in October and need to discuss at September meeting. Gorelick spoke about town committees working together and she will write a one-page document about her vision. Pritchard asked about the fire fighters who do not have housing on Jamestown due to affordability. Pritchard and Plain will talk about strategy to discuss at the Financial Town Meeting.

**V. Policy proposals – review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote (20 min)**

a. CLT/Jamestown Sustainable Resident Program

Plain said that he is happy that Solicitor Ruggerio working on rules and regulations for the Sustainable Resident Program. Plain said if in the first year of the program that three people were interested, it would be a success.

b. Senior Housing – not discussed

c. Affordable Lot Program - not discussed

d. Affordable ADU Program

Plain would like to see a tax abatement created for people who build/create an affordable ADU. Plain and Case will begin to prepare some policy guidelines for tax abatements for ADUs.

Discussion ensued regarding affordable housing at the statewide level. Plain said that he plans testify at the State Legislature. Bryer said that real estate transfer tax funds that comes from the state go to general fund not towards affordable housing. Plain will invite Alex Finkelman and Dawn Euer to a future meeting.

**VI. Funding Mechanisms of Affordable Housing - review, discussion and/or action and/or vote (5 min) – not discussed**

**VII. Tools and Techniques for Creating Affordable Housing in Jamestown - review, discussion and/or action and/or vote (5 min) – not discussed**

**VIII. Member Reports (5 min) - none**

**IX. Future Meetings and agenda items of Affordable housing Committee - review, discussion and/or action and/or vote (5 min)**

Next meeting May 15, 2024 at 5:15pm

**X. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn at 6:15pm was moved by Gorelick and seconded by Pease. All in favor.