

Approved as written

Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee Minutes

May 15, 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, Bob Plain, Dave Pritchard, Lisa Bryer, Mary Meagher, Fred Pease and Susan Gorelick.

Not present: Wayne Moore

Also present: Carrie Kolb

II. Approval of Minutes

a. April 17, 2024 - review, discussion and/or action and/or vote

A motion was moved by Toll and seconded by Pritchard to approve the minutes from April 17, 2024 as written. All in favor.

III. Jamestown Housing Authority – review, discussion and/or action and/or vote

Discussion ensued on the Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee (JAHC) can support the Jamestown Housing Authority (JHA)? The question was raised should the JAHC give the JHA funding? The JHA is federally funded and the federal government is deaccessioning smaller housing authorities. The JAHC is funded through the Town Council. Presently, both the committee and the housing authority work separately from each other. It was decided to invite Nikki Vazquez, Executive Director of JHA to the next meeting for further discussions. The Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) booklet will be provided to the committee.

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

a. CLT/Jamestown Sustainable Resident Program

Meagher talked with Marla Romash, who worked in public relations. Romash said the CLT/Jamestown Sustainable Resident Program was very complicated and meet people where they are. Romash suggested talking the program up in smaller groups to develop interest. Pritchard said that people will get missed if the program is discussed in only small groups. He asked Meagher if she was opposed to putting in the paper and she said that she is not opposed. Discussion ensued regarding the Town Solicitor working on the CLT creating rules for the program. Meagher will confer with Ruggerio and have clarification at the next meeting.

b. Senior Housing

The Senior Center is having the second Senior Resource Fair on June 26 from 3:00-6:00pm at Fort Getty. Should AHC have a booth? It would be a great way to start conversations with senior residents. The committee agreed it is a good idea and Meagher will contact Molly Rose to secure a booth. Meagher, Plain and Bryer will attend on behalf of JAHC.

c. Non-conforming lots program/Affordable Lot Program

Plain suggested sending a letter to non-conforming lot owners and thinks the letter would go to about 15-20 owners. In the past, a letter was mailed to the owners and no one took advantage of splitting their lot for affordable housing. Plain said that if one person wants to do it then it would be good.

d. Affordable ADU Program

Discussion ensued regarding creating affordable ADUs. One option of the Town lending funds to create an Affordable ADU at a lower interest rate was discussed, however it was concluded that the Town does not have the staff to manage a program and the Town is less inclined to be a lender.

Another option discussed was to create a trust fund to give people money to create an Affordable ADU.

The question was raised if Affordable ADUs would qualify for section 8 housing/voucher program. Plain said that the Housing Authority in Jamestown is too small for housing vouchers.

Discussion ensued regarding forgiving permit fees, forgiving taxes, creating a rebate program and creating an abatement for creating workforce/first responder housing.

This discussion will continue at future meetings.

V. Funding Mechanisms of Affordable Housing - review, discussion and/or action and/or vote (5 min)

VI. Tools and Techniques for Creating Affordable Housing in Jamestown - review, discussion and/or action and/or vote (5 min)

VII. Member Reports (5 min)

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

The next meeting is June 26, 2024 at 5:15pm.

IX. Adjournment

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

Attest:

Carrie Kolb