

Approved as written

Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee Minutes
August 21, 2024 at 5:15pm
Small Conference Room
93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, RI 02835

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. The following members were present: Bob Plain, Lisa Bryer, Fred Pease, Job Toll, Quaker Case, Dave Pritchard, and Mary Meagher

Not present: Wayne Moore and Susan Gorelick

Also present: Carrie Kolb, Richard Doyle, resident

II. Approval of Minutes

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

A motion was moved by Case and seconded by Pease to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2024 meeting as written. All in favor.

III. Public Comment - none

IV. PY 2023 CDBG Funding request - review, discussion and/or action and/or vote
Plain recused himself from the discussion. Bryer explained that the funding is for PY 23 and only for housing programs requesting. The funding requested is \$250,000 for the sustainable lot program; \$375,000 for the lot subdivision program; and \$500,000 for funding Jamestown Housing Authority. Discussion ensued about ranking the three projects for the Town Council. The decided ranking was: 1) Jamestown Housing Authority; 2) Subdivided lot program and 3) Sustainable resident program.

A motion was moved by Pease and seconded by Toll to prioritize the three CDBG applications and notify the Town Council. All in favor.

V. Visioning Session – discuss next steps for the committee - review, discussion and/or action and/or vote

Discussion of what is next for the Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee ensued.

Jamestown Housing Authority – Will the properties on Pemberton be renovated and then need to be torn down in the future? Meagher said that the dilemma with Pemberton is the proximity to Native American Burial Ground. Plain said that he would keep the committee informed of JHA.

Ambulance Barn – the Ambulance Barn already has a footprint. How many units could it turn into was asked? It could be 9 units if it was 3 levels. The question of which is more cost effective a cottage cluster versus one large building was asked? Meagher said in general building a second story is more cost effective than building a separate foundation.

Town owned land – look at places where we can do more.

Lawn Avenue school – this is part of the big picture. There are less than 500 children at the school. If the school gets closed can the building be used for housing production, a senior center, build senior housing on top of it?

Master Plan – a Master Plan for the Town is needed where groups work together not separately for common causes and some examples are affordable housing and school. Bryer suggested having a charette. Plain suggested having a joint meeting to discuss the future the invited groups would be Town Council, Senior Center, JHA, JAHC and Schools. Bryer said that the Comprehensive Plan rewrite was awarded to Weston and Sampson, and the joint meeting could be a stakeholder meeting. Plain said that he will draft a letter.

Housing Trust – create a Housing Community Land Trust for the Town of Jamestown.

Tax Abatements – more information is needed on how to move forward with offering tax abatements.

Non-profit - How to start a housing non-profit in Jamestown? Bryer said that she has a pamphlet on how to create a land trust.

VI. Member Reports (5 min) - review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote - none

VII. Future Meetings and agenda items of Affordable Housing Committee - review, discussion and/or action and/or vote (5 min)
Next meeting September 18, 2024 at 5:15pm
Agenda- item is the letter Bob is writing.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 6:13pm was moved by Pease and seconded by Case. All in favor.