



**Walpole Housing Partnership
Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 6:30p.m
Room 116, Town Hall**

Minutes

Attending: Bruce Norwell, Chairman; Bernie Goba, Denise Landry, Walpole Housing Authority and Stephanie Mercandetti, Economic Development & Grants Officer.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by Mr. Norwell.
2. Approval of minutes: Minutes of the March 20th meeting were not available and therefore this item was held until the next meeting.
3. Old business

a. Update on BOS Downtown Working Group:

Mr. Goba and Ms. Mercandetti gave a recap of the last meeting of this group. The discussion was primarily focused on thoughts and ideas to increase pedestrian activity in the downtown. One opportunity would be to capitalize the large number of commuters taking the rail into Boston. Another would be to create occasions such as festivals, weekend events among others that would draw residents to the downtown for a prolonged period of time. There may be an opportunity with the upcoming Walpole Day to close off a portion of Main Street in the downtown. The Recreation and Police Departments are looking into the possibility.

b. Discussion on expanding the Partnership's membership and outreach to individuals:

Ms. Mercandetti presented a document that outlined the roles, makeup and operation of the Walpole Housing Partnership. In reviewing the document, it identified various stakeholder groups to outreach to and expand membership. Mr. Norwell will talk with the Walpole Chamber (he may be able to serve as their representative as he is on the Board of Directors), and will also speak with Marilynne Ryan and Bill O'Connell to gauge interest. Ms. Landry offered to contact Fran McDavitt, Tom Taylor and Marge O'Neill to see if any have an interest in the Partnership. Mr. Goba will speak with clergy at United Methodist. Ms. Mercandetti will reach out to the Council on Aging. While the Partnership is simply doing the outreach and solicitation, anyone interested will still need to complete a form to the Selectmen for appointment to the Partnership.

Documentation: 2009 Document Defining the Walpole Housing Partnership

c. Housing Production Plan:

i. Initial conversation with Horsley Witten Group:

Ms. Mercandetti located documentation from when the original housing production plan was created. It cost \$17,000. In speaking with Nate Kelly of the Horsley Witten Group, he estimated \$10-12,000 which would include new mapping, updating the data, text development and potential new strategies. While too much has not changed since the 2008

plan was approved, Mr. Kelly suggested going through a checklist of the plan to see what would need revisions.

- ii. Review and develop checklist for the sections of the Plan that needs to be updated:

Ms. Mercandetti developed the checklist from the sections of the Plan. The Committee reviewed the checklist and selected those components that would need to be updated by a consultant and possible areas where the Partnership may be able to update in-house as an option to keep costs low. Ms. Mercandetti will contact Mr. Kelly with this information and obtain a firmer estimate for the work.

- d. Potential town-owned land sites for Habitat for Humanity:

Mr. Goba reported that he and Dan Daley have not made any site visits yet. He asked Ms. Mercandetti to give some additional information so as to better locate the available land. Ms. Mercandetti will check the Assessor's database and send the details to Mr. Goba following the meeting. Members also inquired about specifics on the process for the disposition of land. Ms. Mercandetti will retrieve the MA General Laws Ch. 30B Manual and report back at the next meeting.

- 4. New business: None.
- 5. Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 6:30pm.
- 6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.