



**Walpole Housing Partnership
Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 6:30p.m
Council on Aging, 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 6:30pm by Mr. Norwell.
2. Approval of minutes:

Motion was made by Mr. Goba and seconded by Mr. Norwell to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2011 meeting as written. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion was made by Mr. Goba and seconded by Mr. Norwell to accept the minutes of the January 17, 2012. Ms. Mercandetti noted that the location of the meeting was missing from the minutes and that the dates towards the bottom of the page were incorrect and need to reflect the February meeting date. The minutes were approved as amended. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Appointment of representative to the Board of Selectmen Downtown Working Group:

Ms. Mercandetti explained the recent economic development workshop convened by the Board of Selectmen which included representatives from the Economic Development Commission, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Sewer and Water Commission. The Selectmen wanted to set up working groups (with representation from the above boards and committees) to look at the three different economic development opportunity areas: Downtown, Route 1, and Route 1A. For the downtown working group, Selectmen also wanted to include representation from the Walpole Chamber of Commerce and the Walpole Housing Partnership. Each group would be charge with developing a vision for the area, identifying obstacles and challenges, finding solutions, partnering with businesses and property owners, looking at successful examples of other communities, and identifying potential state and local resources. The working groups would have two to three months to complete the above tasks and report back.

A motion was made Mr. Goba and seconded by Mr. Norwell to appoint Mr. Norwell as the Partnership's representative on the Board of Selectmen's Downtown Working Group and to appoint Mr. Goba as an alternate representative who would like to also participate in these meetings. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Discussion on scheduling a meeting with the Economic Development Commission:

Due to the recent creation of the downtown working group noted above that also includes members of the Economic Development Commission, the Partnership felt to hold off on scheduling a separate meeting with the Commission.

5. Discussion on updating the Housing Production Plan:

Ms. Mercandetti stated that the Town's Planned Production Plan for Affordable Housing approved by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development will be expiring by January 2013. So therefore, the Partnership should begin to think about updating the Plan. The Plan was originally developed by Horsley Witten Group. Mr. Norwell asked about the cost and funding source for the creation of the Plan. Ms. Mercandetti was unsure of the specifics as it was prior to her being employed by the Town but will check with other Town staff to gather the information and report back at the next meeting. She will check with the Commonwealth to see if there are any changes to the Planned Production Program and will research potential costs for the update.

6. Any other business:

Mr. Goba mentioned the desire to get some projects and initiatives going so that Partnership may be more proactive. Mr. Norwell agreed but also expressed the need to increase membership. He felt that the Partnership needs to develop awareness and target certain groups to educate. He recalled a document that detailed the membership representation for the Partnership. Ms. Mercandetti said she will check past files and documents to see what she can find for background on the Partnership.

Ms. Mercandetti inquired about the status of examining town-owned parcels for Habitat for Humanity. There have been no recent updates. Ms. Mercandetti will distribute the site requirements for Habitat for Humanity and place the item on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 6:30pm.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.