

**GREAT BARRINGTON
AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND (AHTF)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, October 8, 2020, 5:30 PM via ZOOM video conference

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chmn. Bill Cooke, Fred Clark, John Katz, Larissa Yaple

MEMBERS ABSENT: Garfield Reed

OTHERS: June Wolfe, Eileen Mooney, Robert Holcomb, Mary Pat Akers,
(Shepley Evans, Admin. Support)

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Cooke called the meeting together at 5:31 PM.

Mr. Cooke asked Ms. Wolfe to report on Construct's Rental Assistance Program.

Ms. Wolfe reported that the program has been very much of a "team effort" with support from many organizations and individuals. To date, she estimated that Construct had spent approximately \$27,000 out of the \$31,000 the Trust Fund Board had initially made available.

Mr. Cooke opined that the CPC might very well be a contributor also.

Ms. Wolfe also said that any support or encouragement for the eviction protection effort would be very much appreciated.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The draft minutes of the July 21st and August 19th meetings had been circulated previously. Mr. Cooke made corrections to both. **Motion by Mr. Katz, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve the minutes as corrected. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor.**

Mr. Cooke had previously distributed his final draft of the Request for Proposals (RFP). There were no suggested changes from Board members and Mr. Cooke noted that all were in favor of the RFP as drafted. He wished to establish a schedule for its issuance and deadlines for submissions, review, presentations and final selection. A group discussion followed.

Mr. Cooke summarized a proposed schedule: to issue the RFP on Thursday, October 15th; to invite inquiries by Thursday, November 5th; to set a submission deadline for complete proposals of Thursday, November 19th; to hold a meeting of the Board to receive presentations on Thursday, December 3rd and to meet again for a final vote of selection on Wednesday, December 9th. **By roll call vote the schedule summarized by Mr. Cooke was agreed unanimously.**

Mr. Cooke reported that the disposition of the house at 40 Grove Street was currently in the hands of the Town's legal professionals who will be arranging the conveyance to the Trust.

The Fiscal 2022 round of proposals to the Community Preservation Committee having begun, Mr. Cooke opined that it might be best for the Trust to continue thinking about future directions to consider. He thought that it was probably not likely that the CPC would entertain a proposal for substantial money to buy, fix and re-sell at affordable prices.

Ms. Yaple acknowledged that there were many things the Town needs to purchase. She asked whether the Board might send a letter in support of the Mass Eviction Protection effort, and she offered to draft it.

Mr. Cooke reminded that Construct still has the Trust's \$100,000 available to them for their rental assist program.

Rather than craft an eviction protection support letter of its own, Mr. Clark said he would prefer to see the Board join with a larger group of similar entities that could have greater impact.

Ms. Akers suggested that perhaps the Trust should consider buying land, putting in the infrastructure and making small lots available for a group of tiny houses.

Mr. Katz reminded that the Trust still has the \$100,000 for rental assist with Construct.

Mr. Cooke acknowledged that the Trust has OK'd Construct to use that money, and he felt that they probably will do so.

CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

Ms. Mooney had no questions or other thoughts to raise at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, Mr. Cooke adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shepley Evans", with a stylized, flowing script.

Shepley Evans
(Admin. Support)