

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

**Thursday, June 23, 2021, 6:30 PM  
Remote virtual meeting by ZOOM.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fred Clark (Chairman), Larissa Yaple, Bill Cooke, Garfield Reed, John Katz.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Eileen Mooney.

**1. Item #1 on the agenda** to review 2 sets of minutes was passed over to the next meeting: Shep Evans will re-distribute minutes from the 5/13 & 5/27 meetings to the board via email.

**2. Per state guidelines**, the virtual public meeting law was extended through 2022 and the GBAHTF will continue to meet virtually on zoom for the near future.

**3. The board reviewed its financial statement:** the board would like to return to CPC to request additional funding for its down payment & rental assistance program through 2022. The trust has distributed 4 down payment assistant loans in total: the average amount of assistance around \$18,000. Our advertising of the program in the shopper's guide has been consistent & resulted in an inquiry. The board feels that the continuing increase in housing costs will make our program even more necessary. The board also wishes to continue the Rental Assistance program while the economy is still unstable & housing affordability continues to impact many families in our community.

**4. Update on Construct Rental Assistance program:** In total 110 rental assistance grants were provided to GB households. Construct has expended \$52,504.32 of the trust's money so far and has been successful in receiving other donations & contributions to the program from other sources. \*\*Mr. Clark made note that any GBAHTF funds remaining after the program ends would be returned to the trust\*\*.

**5. 40 Grove St. update:** Mr. Clark received an update from Carolyn @ Habitat for Humanity: the transfer of the deed is slated to happen before the end of the month; Habitat has been able to get their engineers in to do some preliminary work and some planning. The trust will seek updates regarding the community engagement meetings Habitat has planned for the project.

**6. North Plain Road (Alden site) update:** Chris Rembold applied for the engineering Mass works grant. The trust is hoping to start the process of working through the prospective boards in town for approvals in late winter 2021/early spring 2022. Another Mass Works grant will be necessary for construction work, likely around October 2022 with infrastructure work occurring in early 2023. Mr. Clark will keep the board up to date about any possible meeting Habitat will

be holding in/with the neighborhood, possibly this fall. Mr. Clark would like to spend the remaining \$14,815.50 left in our “Alden Parcel” account on the engineering & survey work; **John Katz motioned that the board spent \$14,815.50 to start the engineering & survey work; Bill Cooke second. Vote: Unanimous approval.**

**7. The board continued their discussions** about how to continue to spread the word about programs and educate in general the need for our important programs.

**8. Mr. Clark inquired** about the board meeting throughout the summer; decision made to skip a July meeting but to convene in early August for updates. The Board to consider setting up regular meeting times; Mr. Clark Fred proposed every third Thursday of the month.

**9. Mr. Clark adjourned** the meeting without objection,

Respectfully submitted,

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Larissa Yapple.