

**GREAT BARRINGTON  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND (AHTF)  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM video conference**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fred Clark, Chairman; Bill Cooke, John Katz, Garfield Reed

**OTHERS:** Eileen Mooney, Vivian Orlowski, Shepley Evans.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and read the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order. He announced that all votes during this meeting would be by roll-call.

Mr. Cooke made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Reed, and unanimously approved by roll-call vote.

Mr. Clark introduced Vivian Orlowski, an advocate for the **Senior Tax Deferral Program**.

Mr. Reed made a motion to recommend the program to the Selectboard with a 4% interest rate on total deferred Real Estate Taxes. Mr. Cooke seconded the motion. Mr. Clark offered to send a letter of support to the Selectboard from the AHTF Chair. Mr. Reed recommended a total base amount limit of \$40,000 and at the 4% interest rate. Mr. Clarke recommended not getting too involved in details, and that, in his opinion, Mr. Reed's recommendation (up to \$40,000 at 4%) was supportable in the interest of affordability. The motion having been made and seconded was **passed by a unanimous roll call vote in favor**.

Mr. Clark introduced the main topic of this meeting: the current CPC Application where the TRUST FUND had requested \$200,000 to run all of its programs. Mr. Clark reported that he got "push back" from the CPC looking for the Trust Fund to seek leverage, i.e.- money from other sources. Mr. Clark

made the point that proposals from other entities "sucked the wind out of the Trust Fund's sails" at the CPC. He wanted to make the case that the Trust Fund is itself a source initiative that addresses and supports whatever affordable efforts others are making. Mr. Clark would like to generate a proposal for \$1 million, and wants ideas for what the Trust Fund could do for and with others with that much money. Mr. Cooke suggested that Mr. Clark collect ideas and report back to the Board.

Mr. Clark announced that AHTF had been awarded the money to initiate the engineering for the development of the property on North Plain Road, and that, with regards to the impending start of physical work at 40 Grove Street, Habitat for Humanity needs to be advised that the surrounding Grove Street neighborhood needs to be actively "kept in the loop" as an important part of the team. The upcoming CPC deadline is January 6, 2022 and the next Board meeting will be in January, TBA.

**Without objection, Mr. Clark adjourned** the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shepley Evans, Admin. Support