

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

Thursday, July 5, 2018

6:30 PM – Great Barrington Fire Station, 37 State Road

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Cooke, Chairman; Fred Clark; Jonathan Hankin; John Katz;.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cara Davis; Samantha Homeyer.

OTHERS PRESENT: Shep Evans, Administrator.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Cooke called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

MINUTES: Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Katz, to approve the minutes of June 7, 2018 as distributed. Unanimous approval.

Mr. Cooke opened the meeting with an update on promotional materials, progress, direction and strategies. He indicated that he was getting feedback from bankers and others that 80% of median income was too low to find an affordable house in Great Barrington. He acknowledged that a question has arisen whether CPA money can be used to rehabilitate a house that was not bought with CPA money. It was agreed that the Board should discuss this issue with Mr. Rembold and others.

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Mr. Cooke initiated a discussion of the timing of CPC funding applications. It was understood that the simple initial application is due by September 1st and the 2nd more detailed application, upon which the ensuing interview process would be based, will be due by October 1st. It was generally agreed that further discussion of the 2020 CPC funding application would be continued to the August meeting. In the meantime, members of the Board will seek to clarify whether rehabbing can only be done with CPA money if a property is bought with CPA money and whether partial CPA funding of an acquisition would qualify for CPA funded rehabilitation. Mr. Cooke and Mr. Katz will meet with Mr. Rembold and the CPC advisor to get answer(s) to these questions.

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Mr. Cooke commented that, with the resignation of Mr. Marzotto, the Board needs another member, and that, after delivering a baby boy, Ms. Homeyer has requested to be re-appointed to the Board.

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Mr. Clark expressed his interest in working to coming up with ideas of how the Board can be a catalyst to stimulate others to facilitate or produce affordable housing.

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Both Mr. Clark and Mr. Cooke favorably reviewed the P.R. ideas proposed by Ellen Lahr. It was agreed that the Board needs to get a better understanding of the cost of her assistance, which sounds mostly like the use of internet based social media.


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Finally, Mr. Cooke requested Board approval to run a modest amount of advertising in the Shopper's Guide on the Fund's down payment assistance program. There was unanimous approval.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 6:30PM at the G.B. Fire Station.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Cooke, hearing no objection, adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Shepley Evans
Administrative Support