

Weston Affordable Housing Trust
January 9, 2020

Housing Trust Members Present (“HT”): Chair Sarah Rhatigan, Kenneth Newberg, Thalia Price, Michael Price, Susan Haber

Also Present: Liz Valenta (RHSO), Tony Nolan (WAHFI), Keith Gross (WAHFI), Peter Endicott (WAHFI), Eileen Schaubert, Prather Palmer (COA), Mignone Morray (COA), Eric Goldberg (Counsel for certain Birch lane abutters), Andrew Rostami, Elaine Forsythe, and Margaret Flowers

Item 1: Public Comment:

No public comment.

Item 2: Minutes:

Meeting Minutes approved. Motion by Thalia Price, Susan Haber second, approved unanimously.

Item 3: Birch Lane – WAHFI Project Update

Trustee Susan Haber, as a member of WAHFI, recused herself from any deliberations relating to the WAHFI project.

The Trust heard from architect Keith Gross and WAHFI President Peter Endicott. Sarah explained the role of the Trust in reviewing and recommending projects to the Select Board and to the CPC. Keith Gross presented a couple iterations of an affordable rental project located on Birch Lane. WAHFI has been working with the Historic Commission to reach a consensus on the project details. WAHFI has met with the neighbors and has modified the project in light of those discussions. After two iterations, WAHFI decided to move the two existing buildings onto the northern legal lot leaving the southern lot without development for now and expanding those buildings to each contain two three bedroom units.

The abutters’ counsel spoke about the neighbor’s concerns relating to the prior iterations of the project and was unable to comment on the most recent iteration.

The Trust would vote on their recommendation for or against the Project at a later date.

Item 4: Housing Roundtable

Representatives of the COA discussed a potential senior affordable round table to discuss ideas for the development of affordable senior housing. The Trust expressed enthusiasm to participate.

Item 5: General Updates

0 Wellesley: The Town Manager and Procurement Chief reviewed the RFP. The Trust will review and respond to comments.

Independent Counsel: The Trust discussed the potential conflict Town Counsel has in facilitating agreements between the Town and the Trust. The Trust would pursue retaining qualified counsel to employ when needed.

CPC Funding Application for the Housing Production Plan was discussed.

Item 6: Next Meeting

The Trust set the next meeting for January 28, 2020 at 8:00 A.M.

Item 7: Warren Avenue, Executive Session

Sarah Rhatigan moved to enter executive session under exemption 6 to discuss a lease. Roll call vote taken: Sarah Rhatigan, yes; Susan Haber, yes; Michael Price, yes; and Kenneth Newberg, yes.

The next meeting will be scheduled for January 28, 2020 at 8:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kenneth A. Newberg, Clerk Pro Tem