

Housing Production Plan Implementation Committee

Hybrid Meeting
April 11 2023

Meeting called to order at 3:36 p.m.

Members Present: John Buckey, Becky Cutting, Barton Hyte, Kurt James, Teri McDonough, Lou Meyi, Erin Noonan, John Whipple

Mr. Whipple was designated Acting Secretary.

Moved by Buckey, seconded by Whipple to approve minutes of 3/14/23. All in favor.

Discussion followed on the following topics —

School Department surplus properties:

Dr. Buckey reported that the School Committee had not discussed the matter at their most recent meeting. The procedure that would be followed would be for the School Department to declare a property surplus and so inform the Select Board. The next Town Meeting would be able to vote for a use for such property. For the 2024 Town Meeting to take a vote, we would need to know this summer in order to prepare.

Dr. Buckey noted that the present sentiment on the School Committee is to retain the Coffin School as a potential school site.

The School Department's lease on Widger Road runs through 2026 with two option years thereafter.

Accessory Dwelling Units:

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing this evening.

Smart Growth Overlay Districts

Possible areas include Bessom Street, the Warwick, and the Starbucks Plaza. To satisfy the MBTA requirements, 27 acres are required, and no single plot satisfies that requirement. Overlay Districts become eligible for funding from the Commonwealth. By giving property owners further options for the use of their properties, Overlay Districts can increase property values.

Affordable Housing Trust Fund:

It has a current balance of \$118,900. A further \$10,000 is due from the sale of the Gerry School.

Proceeds from the sale of the Vinnin Square/General Glover Property would require a Town Meeting vote to be placed in the Trust Fund.

We need to find a way to get the Town's share of HOME funds — a task for the Fair Housing Committee.

Engineers are to recommend parcels for MBTA zoning.

Community Contacts:

Mr. Meyi reported that a discussion with the Democratic Town Committee was well done. He recommends remaining in touch with Rep. Armini. At their February meeting, the Green Marblehead Committee gave their support to affordable housing. We should seek support from other community groups.

The next meeting will be May 9.

Moved by Hyte, seconded by Whipple to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Whipple
Acting Secretary