

Town of Fairfield  
Office of Community & Economic Development  
Affordable Housing Committee  
February 8, 2023

The Affordable Housing Committee of the Town of Fairfield held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Old Town Hall. The meeting was also held via Zoom.

PRESENT: Joanne Csonka; Steve Grathwohl; Urb Leimkuhler; Heather Dubrosky; Gwynne Alperovich, Nina Velez; Janice Bouloubasis

ALSO: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Csonka called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

MINUTES: Consider & Act Upon the Minutes of December 14, 2022 and January 11, 2023 meetings:

The minutes of December 14, 2022 and January 11, 2023 were accepted unanimously.

#### ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Leimkuhler was nominated and elected unanimously as vice-chair of the committee.

#### ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Barnhart reported that he and Ms. Csonka would be presenting the report to the RTM on February 21, 2023. He anticipates that there may be a few questions regarding the status of a future moratorium application as well as the most recent update to the Town's Affordable Housing Plan.

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN

Mr. Leimkuhler remarked that he had sent the committee a list of the goals outlined in the Affordable Housing Plan as well as a suggested timeline. He suggested that AHC members meet with other boards and commissions to create more awareness about the work of the Affordable Housing Committee. Members discussed inserting information about the Committee's work in the First Selectwoman's newsletter. Mr. Barnhart suggested that the committee prioritize and focus on a few goals that have a greater likelihood of being completed within the next year or so. After further discussion the committee members agreed to support goals 1, 3, 7 & 13. Mr. Grathwohl emphasized that some of the goals depended on action by the TP&Z.

## OLD BUSINESS AND UPDATES

### Moratorium Status Report:

Mr. Barnhart reviewed the current moratorium project tracker. He noted that several projects are under construction and that the project at 5545 Park Avenue which is expected to be completed next spring (2024) will likely put Fairfield over the threshold to apply for a moratorium.

The Berkley Road project has been approved by the Inland Wetlands Commission. An application is expected to be filed with Town Plan & Zoning shortly.

The hearing on 980 High Street was closed. A decision is expected by early March.

The proposed project at 15 Unquowa Road proposal is under appeal.

The Board of Selectmen approved the lease agreement with Habitat for Humanity for 244 Greenfield Street. The lease agreement must still be approved by the RTM. Mr. Barnhart expects to start construction this spring.

Mr. Barnhart has talked to the owner of 376 Quincy Street about purchasing his property. The property is in foreclosure, but the sale has been stayed temporarily due to his having filed for bankruptcy.

The Fairfield Housing Authority is continuing to pursue the purchase of the St. Emery's property.

Housing Trust Fund: Mr. Barnhart reported that the fund currently has a balance of \$823,000, which does not include monies committed to the potential purchase of 376 Quincy Street.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Barnhart reported that his office is accepting applications for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and will conduct the first of two scheduled public hearings on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Leimkuhler and Ms. Csonka mentioned bills related to housing that are being considered during this legislative session.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Affordable Housing Committee is Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Gretchen Goethner