



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 01/03/2008

Affordable Housing Task Force January 3, 2008

Members Present: John Griffin, John Hurd, William Burke, Anne DiNoto, Diane Harrington, David Levy, Christopher Loreti, Patricia Worden
Absent: Jim Doherty, Nick Minton,
Also present: Laura Wiener

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Chairman John Griffin.

2. Minutes

Upon a motion of Mr. Levy and seconded, that the minutes of October 14 as amended be accepted.

Mr. Loreti offered an amendment to the motion that the parenthetical remark in lines 4 and 5 of Item 2 on page 1 should be eliminated and also that in the fourth paragraph on the last page the words "up to" should be added before "60 months."

The motion of Mr. Levy to approve the minutes as amended was **voted** unanimously..

3. Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Since the Warrant for Town Meeting was about to close, discussion ensued about submitting a draft article to establish an Affordable Housing Trust Fund in accordance with Section 55C of Chapter 44 of the General Laws.

It was pointed out by Bill Burke, John Griffin, and Patricia Worden that this Trust Fund is an important instrument made available by the legislature for accepting and using funds for affordable housing in an efficient manner.

Because of the very early closing of the Warrant it is possible that some details may have to be changed in a special meeting prior to that date or, if after the Warrant is closed, by substitute motion or in the Selectmen's Report if we have overlooked any important factors because of the time constraint.

Ms. Wiener said that sources of income expected for the Fund would include Comprehensive Permit monitoring funds, \$150,000 from the Symmes project, and possible inclusionary zoning payments in lieu of affordable units, and other donations.

Dr. Worden said that over \$1,000,000 possibly could be expected if excess profits are found for the 40B developer at Brattle Street.

Mr. Levy said that since there is no dedicated funding stream and since he thinks that the Trust Fund would be in competition with the Housing Corporation of Arlington (HCA) for private donations, he is opposed to an Affordable Housing Trust Fund for Arlington.

Mr. Burke said that this indicated a conflict of interest may exist for Mr. Levy, since he is Executive Director of the Housing Corporation of Arlington.

Mr. Hurd said that the Selectmen could put an Affordable Trust Fund article in the Warrant after the deadline has passed.

Dr. Worden said that the establishment of the Trust Fund could help HCA just as CDBG has helped it and the Fund could heighten interest in affordable housing in general.

Mr. Griffin said that he would like to be sure that there is enough public scrutiny of such a board. He said that if the Town did not have such a Trust Fund the money for affordable housing could go into the general fund and be allocated by Town Meeting. The Trust Fund would be a convenient vehicle for accepting tax-deductible contributions for affordable housing specifically.

Upon a motion by Mr. Burke and seconded it was **voted** 5 to 3 to submit the draft Article to be included in the Warrant for the 2008 Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Levy, Ms. Harrington, and Ms. DiNoto voted NO.

Upon a motion by Mr. Levy and seconded it was **voted** unanimously that, if counsel advises that it is appropriate, that the article should be submitted to the Warrant with inclusion of a clause to limit to four the number of terms to be served by a Trustee.

4. Adjourn

On a motion by Dr. Worden and seconded it was voted to adjourn at 8:45 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia B. Worden
Secretary