

AMHERST MUNICIPAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST
Thursday, July 12, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Attendees:

Members: John Hornik, Tom Kegelman, Laura Quinn, Doug Slaughter

Staff: Rita Farrell, Nate Malloy,

Guests: Priscilla White, Laura Baker, Chad Fuller

Not enough member for a quorum

Meeting called to order 7:08pm

1. Reviewed minutes from June 14 meeting

There were not comments on the minutes. A vote could not commence because there was not a quorum.

2. East Street School Update

Berkshire Design Group will carry out a site survey which they can complete in around four weeks. Kuhn Riddle Architects can then use the site survey to carry out the architectural and site engineering analysis. We will check in with Kuhn Riddle to see if they can carry out an analysis on the East St. school building while waiting for the site survey to be completed.

The Trust has already voted to approve \$10,000 for these contracts. The site survey will cost \$5,000 while the architectural and engineering will cost \$10,000. Since there is no quorum at this meeting, approval of the additional \$5,000 can not be approved.

We will look to hold a short meeting on July 26, 7pm, to approve this measure and others that could not be voted upon this meeting.

3. Review Trust application for funding

Minor revisions were recommended for section 4A as some of the bullet points may be redundant. It was determined section 4A should reflect housing type while section 4C should reflect the target populations. Another topic of conversation was about the loan payback period. After some deliberation, it was determined to maintain the 30 year loan period as this is consistent with other public funding sources, including the Town.

A survey was sent out the Trust members and a few others to rank the criteria on which projects will be judged for funding. No consensus was reached on the most important criterion nor was there much variation in the rankings amongst the criteria. A recommendation was made to make some of the criteria items minimum requirements. The remaining criteria can then be ranked on a simplified 1-4 scale (unacceptable, acceptable, advantageous, highly advantageous).

4. MassHousing Planning Grant

Nothing new to report. The State is close to completing a contract with the consultant and will share the scope of work when completed.

5. Housing and Homelessness Survey to Town Council Candidates

A draft survey was circulated which will be sent to Town Council candidates who are participating in the primaries in September. The survey is meant to get candidates thinking about affordable housing and homelessness and to make their opinions and plans public. Responses will be distributed to the public and sent to the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

A vote will taken during the July 26 meeting to approve the survey and have then endorsement of the Trust.

6. Next meeting

A short meeting for votes July 26

Full meeting August 9

Meeting adjourned 8:36pm

**AMHERST MUNICIPAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Thursday, July 26, 2018
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall
7:00 p.m.**

Members: John Hornik, Laura Quinn, Tom Kegelman, Greg Stustman, Doug Slaughter, Nancy Schroeder, Jay Levy, Sid Ferreria

Meeting begins 7:04pm

1. Authorization to spend up to \$15,000 for a site survey and architectural/engineering surveys at the East Street School.

Previously, \$10,000 had been approved for site survey and analysis of the East St. school site. The total will come closer to \$15,000 and contracts have been already been developed for Berkshire Design Group and Kuhn Riddle. The Berkshire contract has been executed for \$5,000 but another \$10,000 will need to be authorized to cover the total.

VOTE: Authorize spending \$15,000 for site survey and analysis of the East St. School

Motion: Greg Stutsman

Second: Doug Slaughter

Vote Passes: 7-0

2. Authorize for chair to request that candidates for Town Council complete a three-question survey regarding future Town support of affordable housing.

VOTE: Authorize chair to send out three question survey to Town Council candidates

Motion: Laura Quinn

Second: Greg Stutsman

Vote Passes: 8-0

3. Review and discuss possible application to CHAPA's Municipal Engagement Initiative.

The goals for this grant to address are:

- Develop a strategy for working with the new Town Council and other elements of Amherst Town governments
- Develop a strategy for engaging the public in the process of planning for the production of new affordable housing
- Develop a strategy for obtaining the formal support for Trust initiatives from non-governmental advocacy groups in Amherst.
- Develop a strategy to engage with both local and regional developers to discuss the incentives available for affordable housing development in Amherst.

VOTE: Submit application to CHAPA with these 4 goals for the MEI grant

Motion: Laura Quinn

Second: Greg Stutsman

Vote Passes: 8-0

4. Next Meeting: August 9

Meeting adjourned 7:31pm