

# Amherst Housing Authority

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January 19, 2016

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Act Committee,

The Commissioners of the Amherst Housing Authority (AHA) have voted unanimously to support the application by Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity (PVHH) for Community Preservation Act funding to work in partnership with the Amherst Community Land Trust (ACLT) to build an affordable duplex on land formerly owned by North Amherst Community Farm.

We believe that the duplex development proposed by PVHH addresses the critical need for long term affordable home ownership opportunities for low-income residents in the Town of Amherst. We also support the cooperative efforts through which PVHH and ACLT have proposed to work together to realize this project.

The primary mission of the AHA is to preserve and to expand decent, safe and affordable housing for low and moderate income households, elders, and persons with disabilities and to support programs, services and resources that promote economic self-sufficiency, and improve community quality of life, tenant empowerment and responsibility. The partnership between PVHH and ACLT to develop two units of affordable housing in perpetuity brings our respective missions together to fulfill a community wide need to expand the availability of affordable homes and, as a consequence, contribute to the economic self-sufficiency, quality of life, and empowerment of low to moderate income families in Amherst.

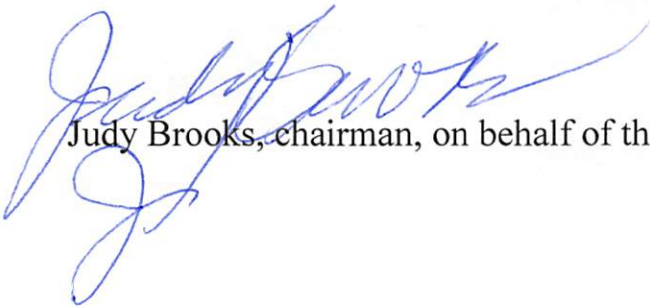
Projects such as this illustrate the ways in which our local organizations, backed by their committed staff and volunteers, can work together to pursue innovative and cost effective results that meet the needs of our community and realize the dream and benefits of home ownership for all its members.

We urge you to consider the many benefits of this thoughtful and innovative project to develop affordable home ownership opportunities during the immediate term of CPA funding as well as the affordable homeownership opportunities it will provide in perpetuity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Amherst Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Judy Brooks", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Judy Brooks, chairman, on behalf of the Commissioners