

Affordable Housing Board Meeting
Thursday, June 25, 2015

The following are the minutes of the Affordable Housing Board meeting, which was held on Thursday, June 25, 2015 in the Community Development Conference Room, located in the Lawrence Township Municipal Building.

Statement of Proper Notice

Adequate notice of the regular meeting of the Lawrence Township Affordable Housing Board has been provided by filing an annual meeting schedule with the Municipal Clerk, and by filing the agenda with the Municipal Clerk, posting prominently in the Municipal Building, and mailing to the Trenton Times, the Trentonian and the Lawrence Ledger.

1. Opening of Meeting/Roll Call:

Present: Peter Ferrone, Susan McCloskey, Jean Washington, Murali Mallapati

Absent: James Kownacki, Council Liaison; Jessica Ann Clifford

Excused Absence: Kevin VanHise

Also Present: J. Andrew Link, Principal Planner; Susan Snook, Secretary

2. Approval of Minutes:

The May 28, 2015 minutes were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Election of Vice Chairperson:

Susan McCloskey nominated Peter Ferrone as Vice Chairperson and seconded by Jean Washington. The vote was unanimous.

5. Housing Rehabilitation Program Update:

Mr. Link stated that we are still finishing the units we have and there are no new units; however, we will be doing the rehabilitation of 217 Fountayne Lane sometime in the future. In addition, we have about \$80,000 left in one of the Affordable Housing Trust Grant accounts that is earmarked for rehabilitation and Mr. Krawczun authorized us to go ahead and spend it.

We were holding back because of the uncertainty of what the COAH obligation might be and what our obligation for housing rehabilitation might be. This money should account for three rehabilitation projects.

Vice Chairperson Ferrone asked how much is put aside for rehabilitations. Mr. Link stated it started up again in 2012 and \$350,000 was put in the Affordable Housing Trust fund into that Grant Fund for that purpose and then \$50,000 and then \$200,000 was put into the grant fund. All of the money was spent except for \$80,000.00.

Mr. Mallampati asked that the money is to be used for the units that are not in a livable condition. Mr. Link stated it is to be used for correcting health and safety violations and you have to be income eligible in order to apply.

6. Township Actions:

Mr. Link stated:

53 Joyner Court is one that we own and we had an interested buyer but was unable to get a mortgage so she dropped out. Letters were sent out again to the people on our referral list and one person took a look at it and will hopefully get a good offer.

12 Mendrey Court is a unit that was being illegally rented and has been vacant for a while and reminded our Attorney that we need to move forward with taking some action. Mr. Link was asked to find the address of the owner is currently living.

217 Fountayne Lane is a part of the rehabilitation program and we own. The Township had it cleaned out and the utilities turned on and in the process of having the construction work items written up and then will go out to bid. Once complete it will be offered to an eligible household.

Mr. Mallampati asked who writes them up. Mr. Link stated we have a consultant that manages the rehabilitation program and have people who deal with specifications and defining the work items and then put out to bid.

Vice Chairperson Ferrone asked what classification are they and have we been through the entire low list. Mr. Link stated 53 Joyner Court is a moderate unit; 217 Fountayne Lane is a low unit and 12 Mendrey Court is a low unit. 53 Joyner Court has been rehabilitated and has gone through the moderate list without any responses and tried the low list and the response was a person from that list who was interested. There are a few extra names on the moderate list and sent letters out to everyone on the moderate list with one response.

Vice Chairperson Ferrone asked how many applications come in a month. Mr. Link stated 3 to 4 a week.

7. Status of Changes at State Level:

Mr. Link stated he has not heard any new news; however, we are proceeding with the filing of the Declaratory Judgement in a couple of weeks and this will give us temporary immunity from law suits. Then we have to prepare a new plan.

8. Other Business:

Mr. Link proposed to the Board members since we had a quorum to consider cancelling the August meeting. Murali Mallampati made the motion to cancel the August meeting and Susan McCloskey seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Digital audio file of this meeting is available upon request.



Susan Snook, Secretary