

TOWN of ESSEX AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST MINUTES – July 27, 2023

The public meeting was held at the Town Hall 2nd Floor, 30 Martin Street, Essex.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ruth Pereen at 7:00 PM.

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

In person: Cliff Ageloff-Community Preservation Committee, Shelly Bradbury-Planning Board Michael Flynn-Finance Committee, Ruth Pereen-Board of Selectmen, Diane Polley-Housing Authority, Troy Scarbrough-At-Large, Dana Menon-Town Planner, and Brendhan Zubricki Town Administrator.

The Minutes of June 29, 2023 were corrected as Diane Polley was not in attendance at this meeting. Ruth Pereen entertained a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Cliff Ageloff moved the motion and Michael Flynn seconded it. The motion was passed unanimously.

The AHT discussed that Shelly Bradbury (a member on the planning board), to discuss at the next Planning Board meeting the possibility that ADU's (Accessory Dwelling Units) could be categorized as a Special Permit in the future. However, as the planning board is working with MAPC to codify the bylaw, the AHT should take the lead in creating a bylaw with Town Council. The AHT discussed the possibilities of ADU's being short term or long term. ADU's can increase the housing stock in Essex. Also, for an ADU to be considered affordable housing, the deed would have to be restricted and in perpetuity. Salem does give tax breaks for ADU's and it could be considered in Essex as well.

The Trust also discussed applying for grants to help Essex develop a Housing Production Plan. In Massachusetts, there is a ONE STOP GROWTH grant where all grants are kept under this umbrella. There is a grant program for Community Planning Fund. Applications are due April to June. The AHT agreed that we should apply for a grant to develop a Housing Production Plan.

The next Affordable Housing meeting will be October 26, 2023 at 7:00PM.

There being no other business before the AHT, a motion was made by Ruth Pereen to adjourn at 7:52PM, Cliff Ageloff seconded the motion and the motion passed.