

**Affordable Housing Board Meeting
Thursday, April 24, 2014**

The following are the minutes of the Affordable Housing Board meeting, which was held on Thursday, April 24, 2014 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.

Opening of Meeting/Roll Call:

Present: Susan McCloskey, Kevin VanHise, Jean Washington, Walker Ristau, Murali Mallampati

Absent: Peter Ferrone; James Kownacki, Council Liaison

Excused Absence: John Masso

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

Approval of Minutes:

The March 27, 2014 minutes were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

Public Comment:

None

Status of Changes at State Level

Chairperson VanHise stated that nothing has occurred since last update. COAH has until next week to come out with new rules and the last indication was they will meet the new deadlines in the Court's decision; however, COAH still has not published a notice of a meeting which they are required to do. The Supreme Court order actually required them to take any informal actions necessary to adopt the rules by May 1, 2014.

Efforts to Preserve Affordable Units (53 Joyner Court and 12 Mendrey Court)

Mr. Link stated that 53 Joyner Court is an affordable unit that the owner has a bankruptcy issue and she has offered the unit to the Township to purchase and the Township is considering that from our grant fund which was established for that purpose from Affordable Housing Trust Funds.

Mr. Link stated both the units are located in Lawrence Square Village off of Quakerbridge Road and 12 Mendrey Court is a unit that apparently the owner is renting it. Mr. Link made a visit and the person who answered the door stated she was renting it and not the owner. The owner has not responded to Mr. Link's correspondence or the attorney's correspondence. The next step is to take them to court.

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Mr. Mallampati asked a question regarding income of affordable units and how it works once a person is in a unit. Mr. Link stated that once a person gets an affordable unit we no longer track their income, so they can make more than when they applied and still remain in the house. Chairperson VanHise stated later on they could get married, or win the lottery and still remain in the unit.

It was asked if a grandmother was living in the unit and passes away, can they give it to another family member. Mr. Link stated that the applicant must live in the affordable unit, it must be their primary residence and they are not allowed to rent it, not even to a family member. If they are no longer living in it and their children are living in, that would be a violation.

Other Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m. The next meeting will be held on May 22, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.


Susan Snook
Secretary

SJS

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