



Housing Committee

Town of Chilmark

MEETING NOTES - FINAL April 23, 2021 (via ZOOM)

Present for the Housing Committee and attending the zoom meeting were Jim Feiner, Ann Wallace, Bill Rossi, Allison Cameron Parry, Andrew Goldman and Alison Kisselgof. Also in attendance were Peter Cook and Tim Carroll. Nettie Kent Ruel was not in attendance.

The meeting came to order at 9:03 AM.

CHILMARK SCHOOL HOUSING SHORTAGE: A letter from the head of Chilmark School regarding staff housing shortages was discussed. A need for more programs beyond the current subsidy program was mentioned as necessary to help with current issues. Peaked Hill Pastures development is still too far from completion to address the problem. Rentals at MLR were brought up as possible housing and the question arose whether current staff in need are on the Chilmark housing list for these units. It was suggested that town email lists could be used to find potential rentals or spaces in houses.

PEAKED HILL PASTURES UPDATE: Peter Cook presented update on Peaked Hill from the Planning Board subcommittee meeting last week. The MVC will be providing funds for a consultant to make recommendations on how to proceed. Challenges for this development will be to determine what is reasonable for rental vs ownership and how to get town to accept proposal. The plan is to be fully developed by the end of the year with units available within the next couple of years.

Modular homes were discussed as a way to save costs and get houses built quicker. The inclusion of one bedroom units was suggested as affordable options for lower income renters. The possibility of rent to own was proposed to help with the financial burden of becoming a home owner.

Ann Wallace mentioned that the Planning Board subcommittee meets on Monday to discuss the hired consultant. She and Peter will present information from this meeting at next Housing Committee meeting.

MIDDLE LINE ROAD COMPLEX DISCUSSION: Turnover rate of Middle Line Road rentals and what could be the cause was discussed. It was suggested to contact DCRHA housing director David Vigneault to find out more information regarding turnover rate. Jim Feiner recounted a conversation with Tim Carroll on the budget for the MLR complex and how it is the responsibility of the Housing Committee and should be a collaboration with DCRHA. The budget has not been finalized for FY21 and needs to be resolved. It was decided that meetings with David Vigneault, Tim Carroll and Ellen Biskis should occur before the next Housing Committee meeting to clarify and straighten out MLR budget.

OTHER TOPICS: The members will look at the By-law regarding RVs in the town and see if there could be a pilot program developed to allow usage for at least the summer months to see if this would give some relief to housing shortage.

Next ZOOM Hearing: May 20, 2021 @ 9:00am.

With no further business to conduct the meeting adjourned at 10:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Kisselgof, board administrator.