

To the Honorable Select Board and the Residents of Chilmark:

The Chilmark Housing Committee (CHC) said goodbye to longtime member Andy Goldman in the spring. Andy served on the CHC since 2005 and most recently as chairperson of the Peaked Hill Pastures Request for Proposal (PHP RFP) Committee. His expertise will be greatly missed on both committees. Andy will continue to serve on the Molly Flender Affordable Housing Trust. Peter Cook, who has been a regular attendee and contributor to the CHC, was recommended and appointed to fill the vacancy.

Lindsey Scott assumed the chair of the PHP RFP Committee and Nettie Kent Ruel, from the Housing Committee, was appointed to the RFP committee. In spite of some setbacks during the year, the PHP RFP Committee completed a first draft of the RFP for review in December.

With the guidance of the Martha's Vineyard Commission, the CHC launched two initiatives in 2023. The CHC has recommended to the Select Board that the excise rate be increased from 4 to 6% with allocation of up to \$200,000 in extra revenue towards housing projects. The CHC also helped facilitate Chilmark's application for the MassHousing Partnership's Complete Neighborhoods grant.

Although no Homesites were created in 2023, there are two Homesites lots and two turnkey ownership units proposed for the PHP project, which hopes to make some headway in the coming year. Two accessory apartments were added to the inventory this year.

The CHC hosted several other organizations at their meetings this year to learn about some unique approaches to combatting the housing crisis including an affordable workforce housing concept, programs to create housing for school employees and veterans and efforts to curb corporate short term housing.

Four residents were enrolled in the Rental Assistance Program, which is funded by the Community Preservation Fund and administrated by the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority. The program subsidizes up to 50% of rental costs for qualifying year-round renters. In the fall, the CHC requested an allocation of funds to continue supporting this program for the next two years.

A total \$2000 in donations to the Molly Flender Municipal Affordable Housing Trust was received in 2023. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to affordable housing efforts in Chilmark, you may drop-off a check to Town Hall or mail it to: Town of Chilmark, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 119, Chilmark, MA 02535. Please make checks payable to Town of Chilmark, memo: Molly Flender Municipal Affordable Housing Trust.

The CHC looks forward to continuing its commitment to identify and institute solutions to the housing shortage in Town and across the island in the New Year.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Feiner, Chair
Bill Rossi
Ann Wallace
Nettie Kent Ruel
Allison Cameron Parry
Peter Cook