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FR: CHILMARK PLANNING BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE: Janet Weidner, Ann Wallace, Peter Cook and Catherine Thompson

DATE: JUNE 28, 2021

RE: PEAKED HILL PASTURES HOUSING, FIRST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION, JUNE 14, 2021

The first of three planned Community Engagement Sessions regarding the potential affordable housing options for the Town-owned property off Pasture Road was held on June 14, 2021. The event was facilitated by Karen Sunnarborg, the consultant hired by the MVC to help the Subcommittee work toward a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the project.

A brief PowerPoint presentation included a review of work to date by the Subcommittee, an update of the ongoing Needs Assessment that is a part of every community's conversation, recommendations by the Peaked Hill Pastures Proposal Committee, and a description of the basic characteristics of the site, based in part on the initial study done by Reid Silva of Vineyard Land Surveying. The review of work to date included the discussions around the issue of the scope/size of any housing development contemplated for this property—to wit, that half or slightly less of the entire area would be developed, at least in the short term.

The rest of the session was devoted to questions and observations by the 40+ participants: mostly residents, including abutters, several people who would be potential beneficiaries of a successful affordable housing project, as well as representatives from the Housing Bank initiative, the Dukes County Housing

Authority, and others with experience in previous Vineyard housing proposals and projects. Additionally, several letters have been received and are included in the record of the Community Engagement Session.

The questions and observations from the participants were essentially positive and constructive. Priorities for both rental and home ownership were expressed, as well as encouragement to look at “pocket community” examples as possible templates for a multigenerational neighborhood at Peaked Hill.

Subsequent to this Community Engagement Session, the Subcommittee has held two de-briefing meetings to discuss what we learned and to define more precisely our plans for the next two sessions.

We confirmed that in the run-up to the next Community Engagement Session Consultant Karen Sunnarborg will conduct interviews with Housing Bank initiative staff and others with extensive experience in promoting, funding, and managing affordable housing projects on the Vineyard.

At the second Community Engagement Session on July 26, 2021, we expect Consultant Karen Sunnarborg will provide a range of rental and home ownership models identifying the pros and cons of the various approaches. Feedback from those present will be sought an open discussion will follow.