

**Present**

Committee members: Bilal Ansari, Charles Bonenti, Kim Burnham, Van Ellet, Cheryl Shanks, Cathy Yamamoto (chair)

Attendees with affiliations (not necessarily formally representing them):  
Meghan Foley (Transcript)

**Business**

1. Minutes. The minutes of the February 1 meeting were approved.

2. CPC application. The committee voted 6-0-0 to approve an addition-amendment to the application for funds it submitted to the CPC in December. In addition to the \$107,500 for technical services to evaluate the feasibility of properties, the committee requested \$600,000 for the acquisition and development of properties.

3. Affordable Housing Trust.

A. Minimum requirements

A housing trust would be run by five to nine trustees, one of whom would be a selectman. Terms would be for two years and would be staggered. Other procedures can vary so would be subject to negotiation.

B. Timeline and requirements if pursued

To establish one, a warrant article without worked-out details comes before town meeting. If it passes town meeting, its membership and procedures would be worked out with "the town," which probably means the select board, town manager, and members of the affordable housing committee, but that isn't certain, as the process is political rather than legal.

C. Costs and benefits

1. Costs or risks might include constraints on spending the money, including delays or disagreements, and redundancy as the trustees would have to be brought through the AHC thinking before disbursing money. The committee members also might comprise appointed people hostile to affordable housing or to spending money; the process is wide open and there are no safeguards re who might be appointed.

2. Benefits might include continuity of the funding pool, the ability to act quickly, the ability to pool funds from many sources (beyond CPC

or town money) and the ability to get the 10 percent tranche automatically, thereby having a certain income that would enable the hiring of a staffer.

3. Bottom line. Working out a full description of costs and benefits might be useful so that we know a) whether this is in our interest and b) either way, if it goes forward what risks do we face that we should try to work out in advance in negotiation?

4. Next steps. Rita Farrell of the housing partnership will attend our next meeting to discuss these and other issues.

**Next meeting: February 15, 7:00 pm**