

Present

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

Also present:

Rosemary Lane (Gail Carridi's office)

Jaime Bairstow, Willinet (live).

**Business**

1. The minutes of the March 22 and April 3 meetings were approved.
2. The Affordable Housing Action Plan, aka Housing Production Plan, and the relation of professional/technical experts to that plan

A. Issues

The committee considered how to go about creating a useful housing plan. On one hand, the committee has information and access to experts who have donated their time in the past, but this might bring biases; on the other, professionals we would hire with the \$107,500 would bring expertise and open minds but no background experience or information about this town.

There was some sense on the committee that assembling and integrating information might best be left to professionals hired with CPA money because they would be consistent and unaffected by preconceptions, but also some sense that taking advantage of the willingness of volunteer experts to give advice now would cut costs and save time.

B. Interim steps

The committee decided to create an inventory of names, titles, contact information and notes about their past assistance of people who have helped out in the past along with a list of local agencies, a sort of yellow pages for ourselves.

The committee also identified some people who might be able to help out.

Molly Wolihan, of the Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development, will be in town meeting with Higher Ground April 20 at 10 am.

Michael Levine, from Local Initiatives for Sustainable Communities (LISC) will be in town Saturday, April 28

Housing Us is a program of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

McKenzie Greer of the Regional Planning Commission might help

Rita Farrell and Tim Kaiser can explain when issuing an RFP makes sense and how to do it.

C. To do

Whether we start with local volunteers or hire outside people, we want to give them a list of specific, directive questions (e.g. about age x need in town) so we don't just get back a report saying that we have an affordable housing problem.

3. Outreach and publicity

A. Charles drafted two memoes for the committee web site, one on an AHT and one on professional and technical services

B. The Westerdahl talk on the Spruces at the historical museum is April 21, 11 am

C. The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Mayfest the weekend between town vote and town meeting

D. On the website and in general our message is: What roles can people play to support affordable housing in Williamstown? Many

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 pm, Town Hall**