

SALISBURY AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 18, 2024 – 5:30PM (VIA ZOOM)

1. Call to Order. Present: Jennifer Kronholm Clark, Lee Sullivan, Jim Dresser, Vivian Garfein, Abeth Slotnick, Pat Hackett and Hannah Pouler (Communications Consultant). Absent: Mary Close Oppenheimer, Jon Higgins and Katie White.
2. **Approval of Agenda. So Moved** by L. Sullivan, seconded by J. Dresser and unanimously **Approved.**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of March 23, 2024. So Moved** by J. Dresser, seconded by A. Slotnick and unanimously **Approved.**
4. Coordinator's Report – None
5. Discussion: 2024 Goals and Subcommittees
 - Housing Committee: Peter Halle provided brief updates. Sarum Village III will be ready sometime in the summer; Dresser Woods is moving along and got past P&Z; J. Dresser added that they had gotten approval from Aquarion. Mr. Halle commented that they are working on a consolidated application to the State for Holley Place financing; he pointed out that it is a long and complicated process. He noted that work has started at the Lakeview Apartments.
 - Pope Property: A. Slotnick noted that a public information meeting and site visit are being planned for early June.
 - Housing Trust: J. Kronholm Clark gave updates. The application to build 2 houses on Grove St. was accepted by the PZC, with a Public Hearing scheduled for May 20, 2024. There are 2 versions of the site plan, including one with municipal parking and one without; both will be presented to the PZC to get input. The SHT is waiting to hear about funding for Perry Street. Regarding Grove Street, P. Hackett suggests adding house numbers to the site plans; the neighbors must be notified. The PZC website has both site plans on it. J. Kronholm Clark pointed out that the PZC will be interested in comments about parking. The Public Hearing is for the application for a Special Permit, with site plan review, seeking PZC approval. The 8-24 review process was completed and will be mentioned in the newsletter, with a link to the P&Z website. J. Kronholm Clark pointed out that the Special Permit process gives the PZC leeway in what to consider; the public may make any comments about the plans, but the PZC might not require those things.

- Advocacy for AH: A. Slotnick mentioned that there was discussion about taking steps to correct misinformation. H. Pouler noted other points, including: carefully considering the tone of the newsletter; correcting misinformation by having project progress on the website; and possibly sending letters to the Editor. There was brief discussion about perhaps having a point person on the SHC and SHT to reach out to neighborhood groups. H. Pouler talked about the wording of the newsletter, including links, how and when to ask questions. J. Kronholm Clark mentioned that the LCCHO has a live housing needs assessment too on their website, but is not sure who the audience is for the tool. V. Garfein and L. Sullivan suggested including that information in the newsletter and having a link on the Housing.org website to that LCCHO link.
- Fundraising/Alternative Funding Sources: J. Dresser did not have a complete update. He had attended Jocelyn Ayer's webinar on short term rentals, but those are not a solution for AH at all. He indicated they will stay focused on ways to fund AH, including looking at fees.
- Exploring Additional Properties: L. Sullivan mentioned that a member of the public would like to join the subcommittee and they want to have a meeting at Town Hall. She will get the meeting set up.
- Sustainability: A. Slotnick is working on the Dresser Woods sustainability goals with a consultant next week and will be looking to see if solar is an option. L. Sullivan commented that they are looking into energy-efficient buildings and solar panels.
- Housing Affordability: L. Sullivan sent an email to Maria Horn, regarding the Homestead Tax Bill in the Legislature, for an update. It could reduce the assessed value of a home by a certain amount, for those who qualify. L. Sullivan will ask Maria Horn to speak at an SAHC meeting on this topic.

6. Communications Consultant Update / Monthly Newsletter Items

H. Pouler mentioned a story about community members going above and beyond; she spoke to Leon McClain, regarding the donated kitchen, and to Ryan Cooper who will help move and store it for the SHT. When ready, the story will go in the newsletter. J. Kronholm Clark is working on getting the project updates on the website. The LCCHO update and others from tonight's meeting will go in the newsletter also.

7. Public Comment: Loch Johnson is looking forward to working on the subcommittee, Exploring Additional Properties.

8. Chairman's Comments: Thanks to all

9. **Adjournment. So Moved** by V. Garfein, seconded by P. Hackett and unanimously **Approved**.