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AMESBURY

CITY HALL
62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

Amesbury Housing Trust MEETING MINUTES January 17, 2023 @ 4:30pm

**Amesbury City Hall
62 Friend St.**

Public comment can be made by:

- Emailing your comment before the meeting to oced@amesburyma.gov. Your comment will be read aloud at the appropriate time in the agenda and entered into the public record.

Agenda

1. Call to Order- Meeting called to order at 5:06 PM.
2. Minutes from December 13, 2023
 - Motion: Ann Mary
 - Second: Drew
 - Vote: 4, KH abstain
3. Public Comment
 - Carol Finn- 412 Main St.- a few months ago present when Adam presented to the board, skipped out of here spread the word all over town, mentioned involving boy/girls club, YWCA, told no money, found article about Newburyport. AMC- talking about the school,
 - CF- what could we give to entice affordable development in Amesbury
 - NF- YWCA is very involved in other projects, and are at capacity, potentially down the road we could entice them
 - SS- Mayor is intent on trying to surplus more properties that Amesbury owns, it is a long process, solicited through the Mayor's office, the process of identifying these properties has started, and has to go through the dispo process.
 - AMC- housing development is main purpose of the committee, available land for purchase. State has a housing bond bill hearing tomorrow, has the potential to add a lot of funding to local communities and non-profits for housing development.
 - SS- Suggested that we had an agenda item to give any updates on existing affordable housing projects. Also asked that the

4. Communications

- Housing Trust Account update
 - i. Housing Trust Principal Balance \$169,051.86
 - ii. Housing Trust Interest Balance \$2,089.68
 - iii. Housing Trust Balance \$171,141.54

5. Existing Business

- Amesbury Rental Assistance Update
 - i. Update on rental survey
 - ii. NF- outreach has been conducted to gauge landlord issues, and the possibility of holding a LL expo in Amesbury to get more engagement from LL's to help solve problems. Trust could sponsor. Can go into more detail at next month's meeting. A discussion was held about the type of speakers/topics/and goals for such an expo.
- 2023 Amesbury Housing Trust Year in Review
 - i. General discussion about city owned properties and disposition process, possible agricultural easement on congress St, near the Salisbury line. AMC- is it feasible to have a city owned property sold at market rate and have that money transferred to the trust?
 - ii. SS- Trust needs to refocus on dispo, how can we use them, or how can we leverage them to increase the fund available to the trust. We also need to better collect on the short term rental ordinance.

6. New Business

- Refugee Housing Project
 - i. SS- can we follow up on a presentation from a couple years ago about a property (Amesbury Chair) how can we use that property. Cluster development? What was the presentation, what happened with it? Add to next month's agenda.
 - ii. NF- Can we get back to the tracker that Drew developed.
 - iii. SS- bring that back at the next meeting, make it accessible to everyone. Add to the next agenda to assign champions. How to make it accessible
 - iv. Ss- Add tenant opp to purchase act.

7. Next Meeting Date – February 14, 2024, 4:30pm

- Motion:
- Second:
- Vote:

8. Adjourn:

- Motion: NF
- Second: AC
- Vote: Unanimous- 5:58