

Town of La Pointe
Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 12, 2022
1:00 pm at Town Hall/Zoom
Minutes

Members present: Katie Sanders; Chair, Jim Peters, Marie Iannazzo, Jane Vogt, Tom Kromroy, Mark Pass, and Lauren Schuppe (arrived late, not sure on time)
Members absent: Charlie Bertel and Ken Myhre
Staff present: Michael Kuchta, Town Administrator
Public present: Rachel Bauman, Pastor at St. John's UCC

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) meeting was called to order by Katie Sanders, Chair.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Minutes of the following meetings to be considered for approval:

A. March 15, 2022

Motion by Jane to approve the AHAC minutes of March 15, 2022, as presented, second by Jim, all ayes. Motion Carried.

4. Brief recap/debrief of presentation to Town Board

Katie congratulated the committee on a successful presentation. There was a great turnout with approx. 25 people attending. Michael reported that the Town Board is addressing the requests of the committee at their meeting tonight.

5. Discuss next steps following recommendations to Town Board

- Katie will e-mail a list of next steps taken from the presentation slides and ask each committee member to volunteer to dive deeper into a specific area.
- Jane volunteered to look into building financing and management partnerships with public, private, nonprofit organizations and individuals.
- Jim mention he will attend the Great Lakes Island Alliance (GLIA) meeting on 4/18/22 in which they will discuss affordable housing. He invited others to join and will bring ideas back to the committee.
- Jim brought up the need for recurring revenue and mentioned possibly using some of the Town's share of room accommodation taxes. Michael will investigate if the Town can increase this tax for a possible source of recurring revenue.
- Jim also brought up the idea of reducing the number of short-term rental permits. Michael will also research if the Town can so this but mentioned the tie in that short-term rentals have with room accommodation taxes.
- Discussion on the committee working to identify current unused or under-used properties that possibly could be rehabbed into long-term rentals. Michael asked committee members to send him fire numbers of properties they think might fall into this category. Tom volunteered to research opportunities for these properties.

6. Discussion of Lauren’s grant suggestions

Lengthy discussion on a Wisconsin Workforce Innovation Grant opportunity brought up by Lauren via e-mail, with an application deadline of 4/18/22.

- Consensus that there is not enough time to submit a grant of this nature.
- Doing research and collecting contents for future grants will be added to the “next steps” list. Jane and Marie will start working on an outline of tasks to be done.
- Rachel stated the St. John’s Church Council will be discussing affordable housing at their meeting this month and invites this committee to ask to be put on next month’s agenda to discuss what type of relationship/support St. John’s could offer.

7. Update on WHEDA

Michael reported the WHEDA Pilot Project for Ashland and Bayfield Counties launched in March. The design team broke into 3 groups; government resources (this is the committee Michael is on), small-scale development, and infrastructure. These groups will meet weekly, including every other week with the WHEDA team and consultants. The goal is to have a list of ideas and stakeholders by mid-June.

8. Recommendations to Town Board

None

9. Public Comment

Rachel said she is super grateful for the committee’s work on this very challenging and hugely important issue. Thank You!

Tom stated Katie did a fantastic job on the presentation, reiterated by others.

10. Set Next Meeting Agenda and Date

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 1pm at Town Hall/Zoom
Agenda items – setting up finances and fiscal agent

11. Adjourn

Motion by Lauren to adjourn.

Minutes taken from recording and submitted by Dorgene Goetsch, Clerical Assistant
Minutes approved as presented May 10, 2022.