

**Town of La Pointe
Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
Tuesday November 14, 2023
10:00 am Town Hall/Zoom
Minutes**

Members present: Katie Sanders (Chair), Jane Vogt, Charlie Bertel, Jim Peters
Members absent: Mark Pass
Staff present: Michael Kuchta, Town Administrator
Public present: Marie Iannazzo and Gwen Smith Patterson

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Katie Sanders.

2. Public Comment – none

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

A. October 10, 2023

Motion by Charlie to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Katie, all ayes. Motion Carried.

Note: Jim Peters was not present for this vote.

4. Guest: Habitat for Humanity

Jennifer Johnson of Wild River Habitat gave an overview of the types of programs they offer, including new construction, home repair and neighborhood revitalization. She talked about a new modular home pilot project they are working on, as well as work being done in Ashland on aging housing stock via a home preservation grant. Discussion about ways people connect with Habitat resources.

Consensus to host a “Rock the Island” project and volunteer opportunity in June (tentatively 6/22/24) to introduce Habitat to the island. Consensus to hold the event and project at one location. Michael suggested a project with the new dog park near the rec center, which was well received by the committee. Jane, Marie and Gwen will work on an overview/proposal for this project based on suggestions from Jennifer.

5. CheqBUILT community land trust – update from Charlie

Charlie reported there is a committee of approximately 17-18 people working to develop a community land trust for Ashland and Bayfield Counties. They are working with a consultant from Minneapolis and are close to being incorporated and creating by-laws. Kelly Westlund and Kelly Pederson, both of UW Extension, are coordinating this project with hopes to be completed by April.

6. Additional Business

Michael spoke about legislation passed in Wisconsin regarding 4 new finance options for workforce housing, essentially self-sustaining revolving loan funds and provisions to keep the units affordable long-term. Categories include community infrastructure, rehab of residences above commercial properties, conversion of commercial spaces, and rehab/upkeep of existing buildings. Details have not been worked out yet; they expect the application details to be done in the next 6 months.

7. **Recommendations to Town Board** – none
8. **Public Comment** – none
9. **Set Next Meeting Agenda and Date**
Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 12/12/2023 @ 10 am
10. **Adjourn**
Motion by Charlie to adjourn, seconded by Jane, all ayes. Motion Carried.

Minutes taken from recording and submitted by Dorgene Goetsch, Clerical Assistant
Minutes approved as presented 1/9/24. D. Goetsch, Clerical Assistant