

**Mtn. Lakes Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Meeting  
Virtual Meeting**

**April 12, 2023**

**Committee Members:** Sueanne Sylvester, Community Member, and HPC Liaison, Blair Schleicher Wilson, Community Member, and Committee Chair; Cynthia Korman, Chris Cannon, Khizar Sheikh - Council Members.

**Public:** Tom Chiang, George Jackson

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**March Minutes Review/Approval-** Blair proposed to postpone the review/approval of the minutes until the next meeting in May. Cynthia agreed and made a motion to postpone the review/approval of the minutes.

**Homeless Solutions Presentation-** The committee introduced ourselves to Stephanie Cicale, our guest speaker. After our introductions, Blair introduced Stephanie and provided context to the presentation. Stephanie started her presentation. During the presentation, George asked about Mt. Kimble Housing and its tenancy structure. Stephanie clarified that it was a traditional tenant/owner relationship and that the tenants were allowed to live there so long as they were independent and did not need medical assistance. Cynthia also asked about occupancy type. Stephanie stated that the units were rentals. The presentation ended at 8:45 am and a Q&A session followed. George asked about the demographics of the clients and income requirements. Stephanie noted that Homeless Solutions sees a variety of clients and that there were income requirements. Clients undergo continuing assessments to see if they still qualify. Cynthia clarified those making \$68,000 still qualified for affordable housing.

**Highlands Council Assessment-** Cynthia stated that Mountain Lakes was still undergoing an assessment of the Highlands Council Regional Master Plan (RMP) to determine if we should opt-in. Cynthia highlighted the benefits of being part of the Highlands Council. Highlands Council provides funding for planners, engineers, and lake(s) management. Blair and George added that we were considering the prospects of joining Highlands Council in 2008-2009, but ultimately decided not to do so. Cynthia stated that things have changed since then, so we need to reconsider. Cynthia stated that Highlands Council also provides grants for things related to affordable housing. More information is needed to determine how Highlands opt-in relates to affordable housing planning. Cynthia had asked the committee about committee members interested in participating in the process. Tom stated that he was interested in the process and is currently looking into how Highlands opt-in relates to affordable housing planning. Blair had asked about the timeline of the Highlands Council assessment. Cynthia clarified that the assessment was going to be completed in May or June. George cautioned about joining the Highlands Council for fear of increased bureaucracy attached to membership.

**AHTF Expenditure Update-** Blair asked for an update. Cynthia stated that the Borough Council assented to the motion that the \$20,000 in the AHTF should be used as an incentive to attract

residents interested in retrofitting their property for affordable housing units. Further discussion on this topic will be continued into our next meeting.

**Veterans Housing Update-** Blair stated that the project has temporarily stalled due to a soil issue. There was also a discussion of photo opportunity logistics, but Blair stated that the soil issue should be resolved first. George asked for further clarification on the soil issue. Blair provided clarification.

**AHAC Membership Requirements Update-** Blair had asked for an update. Cynthia mentioned that the Borough Council assented to the motion of including two alternate members for AHAC. The resolution will be voted on at the next Borough Council meeting at the end of April. Blair added that once that is done, the committee will nominate people to be alternate members during our next meeting in May.

**Other-** Cynthia introduced a question from a resident regarding the requirements for affordable housing in Mountain Lakes. Blair clarified the steps/requirements for interested parties. Blair stated that she plans to retire as the CEO of Morris Habitat for Humanity.

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**Meeting Adjourned and Next Meeting- May 10, 2023, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**