

Leverett Affordable Housing Trust
August 3, 2015 - Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Barbara Carulli (Chair), Julie Shively, Chuck Dauchy, Elizabeth Ahearn, Judy Weinthaler. Absent: Ken Kahn. Others Present: Jennifer Glover, coordinator for the Council on Aging, and Thom Masterson, a volunteer for Franklin County Home Care.

Meeting convened at 5:30 PM.

1. Senior Housing:

Weinthaler summarized previous discussions and questions – How to help elders stay in their homes? What support programs are available? What is known regarding actual needs?

Glover says many elders are interested in moving to someplace with better climate and/or more support facilities, particularly those that are single. They often do not want to encumber their estate with re-hab loans and other costs to age in place.

Weinthaler asked if they would be more likely to stay in Leverett if there were better facilities or a senior community.

Shively asked Glover if property taxes were a problem for seniors, and Glover said yes.

Weinthaler reviewed some of the Tufts Health Plan Foundation statistics for Leverett, compared to the State.

Carulli summarized Franklin County Home Care focus group results. Needs are for transportation, housing, and housing rehabilitation. There was discussion of needs for support beyond just financial.

Brief discussion of potential and problems for a small senior housing development in town, and whether it should be all “affordable” or mixed.

2. Questionnaire or Survey:

Weinthaler distributed a draft list of possible questions for a survey of seniors and their housing needs for discussion.

Glover suggested that the questionnaire cover families and caregivers as well.

The consensus is that Weinthaler will draft a questionnaire and that Carulli will draft a newsletter article as “set-up” for the questionnaire – all for the October newsletter.

Glover said she could do a focus group with the COA and can talk with them for an OK. There could also be a presentation or informal discussion at Friday Lunch. Shively will talk with COA to see what can be arranged.

Glover summarized the variety of programs and services that could be presented at a COA program.

General discussion of other issues: checking on neighbors, medical internet services, a “check-on-network”, pet care during emergencies.

3. Minutes of 6/29/15 were approved with minor amendments.

4. Buy-Down Program:

Carulli reviewed the status report from Ali Langley at HRA – One homebuyer awaiting mortgage approval. No recent word from the other. Langley will remind them of timeline.

Shively noted that Langley had contacted the town for a copy of the covenant – which she should already have. Carulli has asked Langley to keep her informed if there are any problems.

It was noted that the timeline for the next buy-down round has already been set. The trust will review the timeline at the next meeting.

5. MHP support?:

The consensus was that we will wait to request support from the MHP until we have a clear need and questions.

6. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 9/1/15, 5:30 PM. Main agenda item will be review of draft survey questionnaire.

Meeting adjourned, 6:57 PM.

Minutes approved, 9/1/15

Respectfully Submitted, Charles H. Dauchy