



**HOUSING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF FOSTER
Benjamin Eddy Building
6 South Killingly Road
MONDAY: September 20, 2010 AT 7:00 p.m.**

A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present from the board were Fran Gast, Myra Mercier, Lynne Rider and Lynne DeStefano. Diane Potter and Mike Carpenter were excused. Also present was Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner.

C. Approval of Minutes

Housing Board Meeting August 10, 2010

D. Correspondence and Review

None

E. Board Members' Reports

None

F. Planner's Report

None

G. Old Business

Review of the Affordable Housing section of the Comprehensive Plan.

Disc/Action

The board used this meeting as a workshop to read and go over the comprehensive plan.
Discussion of how they want to review the plan.

Lynne R. – made comment about things have changed since the last update (ex. Hopscotch no longer exists)
Fran G. – introduction seems appropriate, however, should we include new regulations regarding affordable housing?

Discussion – do we really expect the State of Rhode Island to provide any funds / monies for affordable housing? General consensus – NO- Members voiced their frustration, about applying for but not receiving state financial assistance.

Lynne R. – page 4 – expansion of the school system has already occurred – but it had nothing to do with affordable housing being built within the community.

Fran G. – clarifies that if the town was to have an influx of people / residents brought forth by affordable housing, there would be an increase upon the services required / requested within the community.

Comment throughout the review: - we need to verify the data used (ex. census information) throughout.

Lynne R. – the survey on the Hemlock Village property is almost complete; however, it is only the very preliminary status to determine if they have the capability of expanding.

Fran G. – we may need to recognize that many of the assumptions made in the original plan have not come true – due to a variety of reasons; such as economic reasons, lack of public transportation, etc. and it has become clear that the one size fits all legislation does not work in rural areas.

Lynne D. – if the census/projection numbers show a variation, we need to verify how they affect the town.
Fran G. and Lynne R. – discuss the lack of public transportation for Foster residents.

The board members continued to review the plan, and realized that some strategies may not produce the number of affordable housing units that were projected. They reviewed the various sites that the previous

plan named as possible housing unit locations, it was determined by the board that some sites may no longer be available or viable for sites; however, that is something that is needed to be verified.

The board suggested that the same basic plan be presented to the planning board; provided that the various data and site locations are verified. No major changes are required at this particular time.

The board members recognized the lack of public transportation is one of our larger problems. It was suggested that board members visit the proposed housing that is being built, in Tiverton, RI.

There was some talk amongst the board members regarding design standards – should they be codified? Not necessarily – but should put something in that states “in keeping with the rural character of the town”.

The planner explains to the board members the program that is in place at RI Housing – wherein if a parcel of real estate goes up for foreclosure they will look at the site to determine if it is feasible for affordable housing, and if so RI Housing Land Bank will purchase the house and create affordable housing from it. Board members stated they would keep their eyes open for possible sites that may meet the RI Housing criteria.

H. New Business

None

I. Future Agenda Items

J. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann-Marie L. Ignasher
Town Planner, Acting Secretary

Date