Approved: September 3, 2019

Board of Selectmen Meeting: July 29, 2019
Present: Freiman, Sullivan Woods, Ulfelder, Olney
Also Present: Jop

Warrants approved: None
Minutes approved: None

Meeting Documents:
1. Agenda

1. **Call to Order**

Ms. Freiman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm in the Juliani Room.

Ms. Freiman announced the meeting was being telecast live on Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 40 and streamed live by Wellesley Media and is recorded for subsequent viewing on the cable channels or at wellesleymedia.org.

Ms. Freiman stated that the meeting was convened in response to members of the Racial Justice Initiative at Temple Beth Elohim who expressed interest in working with the Town on housing initiatives. 1111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111

2. **Discussion of Town Housing Initiatives**

Ms. Johnson, Planning Board Chair; Ms. Lanza and Ms. Kassirer, members of Temple Beth Elohim, and Mr. Barnicle, Executive Director of Wellesley Housing Authority, joined the Board. Ms. Lanza stated that she and Ms. Kassirer were not representing Temple Beth Elohim but rather the Racial Justice Initiative of the Temple. She noted they had been building a coalition with other residents in Town that share a desire for housing diversity in Wellesley. She introduced Ms. Scheff who had been the Chair of the Housing Commission in Lincoln, MA. Mr. Roberti joined the Board and had been advising Ms. Lanza in her efforts.

Ms. Freiman stated that the objective of the meeting would be focused on the current Town housing initiatives and how the various Boards and residents can work together. Ms. Jop reviewed the background of affordable and subsidized housing in Wellesley. She noted that in 2002, the Town had worked with some friendly 40B developments and began to look at additional options to provide affordable housing. She stated that Wellesley was one of the first towns to create inclusionary zoning; for new housing development the Town requires an automatic 20% of units be affordable. She provided further details and background of the number of affordable and subsidized housing units, as well as current projects in Town. Ms. Johnson provided background and details on the Town’s Housing Production Plan and noted it provided a path forward for the Town. She stated that the 40R proposal at Wellesley Office Park would allow the Town to reach safe harbor and provide more control with respect to 40B proposals in the future. She discussed Planning Board initiatives including making changes to the General Residence District to be presented before Town Meeting. Ms. Freiman stated that an interdepartmental housing working group would be convened in the near future.
Mr. Barnicle reviewed the current projects of the Housing Authority and noted they are reviewing options for redevelopment had been working with a design firm to see what the Housing Authority can do to improve the conditions or possibly redevelop their properties. He noted there are 235 units under the Housing Authority.

The Board reviewed their individual housing initiatives that they are involved with. Ms. Sullivan Woods stated she is the liaison with the Barton Road project. She also noted she works with Mr. Morgan on the Tailby and Railroad project. Mr. Ulfelder reviewed his work with the 40R Wellesley Office Park project and the Wellesley Gateway project proposal. Ms. Olney stated she had been assigned to liaison with the Wellesley Housing Authority and noted she had been asked to review the recommendations of the Housing Production Plan and defining how to begin the implementation process. Ms. Jop noted that many of the projects had been in process for many years including the Wellesley Office Park and the Tailby/Railroad project. Mr. Ulfelder stated he wanted to be sure that residents of all of the housing developments would feel a sense of community in Town.

Ms. Lanza discussed the Racial Justice Initiative and noted the group had been focusing on criminal justice reform and housing. She added that much of the group’s work had been focused in Newton. She discussed the economic justice listening tours she had been involved with and noted the housing needs for workforce housing as well as downsizing options in Wellesley. Ms. Kassirer stated she was in favor of the Tailby and Railroad project as it would offer diverse housing options along with transportation options. Ms. Lanza noted her work with the League of Women Voters and stated that the group had a strong interest in working with the Racial Justice Coalition. She added that she had reached out to The World of Wellesley and other groups in the community that have expressed working on these initiatives as well.

Mr. Roberti discussed housing incentives the Governor had been involved with and noted the Governor had been trying to reduce the Town Meeting voting threshold for revising zoning bylaws from 2/3 to a majority. Mr. Roberti stated he would like to revise the bylaws addressing accessory apartments and discussed additional housing options he would like to investigate, including elder housing.

Ms. Freiman stated that the Housing Production Plan and the Unified Plan both outline that the Town intends to address various housing options and is not only focused on making the mandated 10% affordable units. She noted both plans are moving forward and appreciates the advocacy from other groups and residents, and that the Board looks forward to working to achieve these mutual goals. Ms. Jop described the initial set up of the working group and stated community members would be involved in the second phase after departmental plans are in place. She reviewed the current number of affordable units throughout the developments in Town and provided background regarding past initiatives the Town brought before Town Meeting that did not pass. Ms. Freiman asked that the working group have time to examine and determine the feasibility of projects before other groups are engaged. Ms. Jop briefly described the CHAPA Municipal Engagement Incentive Grant.

Ms. Scheff discussed her experience as a Trustee of the Affordable Trust in Lincoln, MA and the background on the creation of the town’s land trust.

3. **Next Steps**

Ms. Freiman stated that the working group would convene and keep community members informed. She noted upcoming meetings regarding the Tailby Lot proposal would be publicized.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 30, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Juliani Room.