



## TOWN OF GROTON

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## HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Peter Cunningham, Chair  
Michelle Collette  
Carolyn Perkins

### Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2020  
Time: 6:30 pm  
Location: Town Hall, beginning in 1st Floor Meeting Room and later in 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton  
Attending Members: Peter Cunningham, Carolyn Perkins, Michelle Collette  
Meeting handouts: Agenda, draft letter of support for housing coordinator CPC application

Peter Cunningham called the meeting to order.

#### Housing Coordinator position

Group discussed the Community Preservation Committee application for funding for the housing coordinator position.

*Michelle Collette moved to designate Peter Cunningham to sign a letter of support for the Housing Coordinator position to be sent to the Community Preservation Committee. Carolyn Perkins seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

Carolyn Perkins left the meeting.

#### Select Board Meeting

At 7 pm, Housing Partnership committee members left the first floor meeting room and joined the Select Board's regularly scheduled meeting in the second floor meeting room of Town Hall. The Select Board and Housing Partnership members discussed the charges and roles of each of Groton's three housing committees: the Groton Housing Authority, the Housing Partnership and the Affordable Housing Trust.

Select Board member and Affordable Housing Trust chair Becky Pine explained that there is a potential vacancy on the housing trust and since the housing trust has had more than one Select Board member on this committee in the past, she is exploring whether another Select Board member would like to serve on the housing trust before reaching out to other volunteers. Select Board member John Reilly was absent. Neither John Giger, Allison Manugian nor Joshua Degen were interested in being appointed to the Affordable Housing Trust at this time. The Select Board will advertise the Affordable Housing Trust position in an effort to find a new volunteer for the Trust.

Peter Cunningham and Michelle Collette each offered recent examples of how the Housing Partnership has met with developers who have potential projects that will create affordable housing. Becky Pine noted that one of these potential 40B projects was on Townsend Road and at the developer's discretion the project was converted to a 9-unit flexible development subdivision. Peter Cunningham explained that the Housing Partnership can be reactive in the sense that the group meets when there is developer interest and developer interest is dependent on the market.

Among the comments, Select Board member John Giger pointed out that he can see the distinct responsibilities of the Groton Housing Authority but that there seems to be overlap between the Housing Partnership and the Affordable Housing Trust. Becky Pine acknowledged the overlap but said that she did not think that the Town had a problem with siloed information. Select Board chair Alison Manugian observed that although there appeared to

be 15 volunteers serving on the three housing committees that there still seemed to be a need or desire for the Select Board to offer direction.

Joshua Degen, who is presently on the Select Board and has previously served on the Affordable Housing Trust, suggested that the Select Board hold a Housing Summit with all three Groton housing committees after the Housing Production Plan is complete. A Housing Summit would allow people to use the new Housing Production Plan recommendations to align goals and hopefully use available resources (such as Town owned parcels and the over \$500,000 in the CPC community housing bucket) to build new affordable housing.

The discussion of housing committees concluded about 8:15 pm and the Housing Partnership adjourned soon thereafter.

Notes by Fran Stanley.