

**BOXBOROUGH HOUSING BOARD MINUTES**  
**BOXBOROUGH AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST MINUTES**  
**March 10, 2010 Joint Meeting**

Housing Board Members Present: Al Murphy, Chair; Channing Wagg, Diane Friedman, Joan Meyer, Jeff Handler, Ron Vogel (7:50)

Housing Trust Members Present: Al Murphy, Les Fox, Channing Wagg, Karim Raad (8:00)

Others Present: Colleen Whitcomb, secretary

The joint meeting of the Housing Board (BHB) and the Housing Trust (AHT) was called to order at 7:32p.m.

I. Information Items

- A. Town Counsel will hold an informational session on revisions to the Open Meeting Law on Apr. 15, 7:00 p.m. at the Sargent Memorial Library.

II. Minutes

- A. The minutes of the joint meeting of the BHB and AHT were approved by the AHT on a motion from Al, seconded by Channing with all voting in favor (Karim was not present).
- B. The BHB minutes of Jan. 13, 2010 were approved on a motion by Channing, seconded by Al with all voting in favor.

III. Discussion with Kelley Cronin of the Acton Housing Authority

Kelley provided handouts and gave an overview of the services provided by AHA. AHA owns and operates 145 units of affordable rental housing, a group home and also administers 155 section 8 vouchers. There are currently 22 individuals or families from Boxborough either living in their housing or on a waiting list. Acton and Boxborough residents and those who are employed in Acton or Boxborough are given priority status for housing as it becomes available.

AHA is in the process of developing 12 additional family units at Sachem Way in Acton. There was some discussion about the possibility of Boxborough contributing funds toward the Sachem Way project, since Boxborough residents are given the same priority status as Acton residents. Boxborough would not be given any credit toward its state requirement for affordable housing because the units are located in Acton. Al asked Kelley if it would be possible to have AHA manage rental property located in Boxborough, purchased and owned by the AHT as a way to provide affordable rental housing that would count towards Boxborough's inventory. Kelley stated that the AHA only manages property that they own. She stated that even if AHA owned the units, Boxborough would still get credit for them because they would be located in Boxborough. Les did not think it would be agreeable to town residents to turn over property in Boxborough to the AHA, and it may not even be legal. Al brought up the idea of AHA agreeing to manage properties in Boxborough owned by the Housing Trust in exchange for a contribution toward the Sachem way project. Kelley said she would discuss the idea with her board. Les mentioned that the current Housing Plan does not include rental property, and any changes would have to be approved at town meeting. Jeff thought the Housing Board should start to think more regionally in terms of providing housing. Kelley will contact DHCD to find out about regionalized Housing Authorities and report back to Town Planner Elizabeth Hughes.

IV. New Business

A. Remaining Condo Exchange Program (CEP) Allocation

Approximately \$79,000 of the money borrowed for the CEP program has not been spent. Since the Housing Board will not be using the funds for the intended purpose, Town Treasurer Margaret Dennehy researched other possibilities for use of the money. If approved at Town Meeting, the money could be used for another purpose, unrelated to affordable housing, as long as the new use qualifies for the same borrowing term (at least 16 years). Joan made a motion to ask town meeting to repurpose the money for a use consistent with the terms of the current borrowing. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Whitcomb

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_