



**West Stockbridge Affordable Housing Trust Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2023**

WSAHT Members Present

Kathleen Kersey, Frank Landsberger, Steve Mack, Andy Potter, Chris Powell, Mark Webber

Meeting called to order

6:15pm

Review & Accept Minutes

N/A - first meeting

Organization - Appointment of Chair

Frank nominated Mark for Chair. Andy seconded. Mark accepted. All in favor. Mark Webber was appointed Chair of WS Affordable Housing Trust.

Mark nominated Andy for Clerk. Frank Seconded. Andy accepted. All in favor. Frank Landsberger was appointed Clerk of WS Affordable Housing Trust.

Frank nominated Chris for Secretary. Mark seconded. Chris accepted. All in favor. Chris Powell was appointed Secretary of WS Affordable Housing Trust.

Steve Mack was designated Ex-officio Member by Town Administrator Marie Ryan (via 9/8/12 email).

Kathleen Kersey is serving as Select Board Representative.

Citizen Speak Time

Randy Thunfors, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals & member of Community Preservation Committee, offered a short briefing he put together on affordable housing efforts occurring in various Town of WS groups and committees including the Master Plan Survey, Vision Committee and the Community Preservation Committee. Randy provided the members of the trust an outline/summary for reference titled "Considerations for the Affordable Housing Trust". Randy said there may be various avenues to coordinate these ongoing efforts with the mission of the WSAHT and that he is happy to discuss the topic at future meetings.

No others were in attendance. Citizen Speak Time was adjourned.

Discussion/Business/Action items

Mark opened the meeting for general discussion amongst members of the trust.

Frank raised a concern related to interpreting the composition and term limits of the members of the WSAHT as described in Article 41. Frank brought the trust's attention to the fact that prior to the inaugural meeting, the Town of WS website already listed term limits for the members of the

WSAHT. Frank expressed concern about whether or not a municipal procedure was followed to assign the term limits as they currently appear on the website.

- The trust agreed that the procedure for assigning staggered term limits needs clarification.
- Frank suggested that the assignment of term limits go before the Select Board for approval.

Frank voiced his opinion that the WSAHT needs a clear understanding of the function, operation and fiduciary responsibilities as laid out in the Affordable Housing Trust Bylaw. All members of the trust agreed that it would be prudent to seek the advice of Town Counsel in interpreting the operation and limitations of the trust as laid out in the Affordable Housing Trust Bylaw prior to starting efforts related to the trust's core mission.

- At Frank's suggestion, Kathleen agreed to ask the Town Administrator Marie Ryan to inquire if a representative from Town Counsel can attend the next scheduled WSAHT meeting.
- Mark suggested that members of the trust prepare questions and inquiries in anticipation of Town Counsel's attendance.

Andy recommended that WSAHT reach out to folks involved in other established affordable housing trusts within Berkshire County to share their experience and give insight to aid in the development of operations, objectives and pursuits.

- Steve offered to reach out to the Lenox Affordable Housing Trust to inquire if anyone is willing and available to attend the next scheduled meeting.
- Andy offered to reach out to Fred Clark of the Great Barrington Affordable Housing Trust to inquire if he is available to attend a future meeting.

Next scheduled meeting

5pm - Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023

Meeting adjourned

6:45pm - Mark motioned to adjourn. Andy seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chris Powell
West Stockbridge Affordable Housing Trust Secretary

4-0 in favor
10/31/23