

COD Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023



Present: Chairperson Mike McCue; Daryl Blaney; Lesley Allison; Rose Marie Bissonnette; Geno Brazeau. Guest: Victoria Petracca, Chairperson of the Lancaster Affordable Housing Trust

Volunteers: Jim Peters, Pat Maguire, Bonnie Camacho

Meeting called to order: 6:06pm

1. December 2022 Minutes were approved as modified.
2. Elderly and mobility impaired housing
 - Victoria Petracca of the Lancaster Affordable Housing Trust (LAHT) gave the COD an overview of the current state of affordable housing in Lancaster. The state requirement is over 10% of deed restricted affordable housing. Lancaster is currently at 5% or 138 units. If implemented, the 40R district in North Lancaster would include 146 units. The details of the town's affordable housing stock can be found on the LAHT website.
 - Having a mobility impairment can be one attribute of those requiring affordable housing. The old Memorial School was referenced as a possibility for the development of affordable housing which could include units dedicated to the mobility impaired and ADA requirements. The COD and the LAHT have an opportunity to collaborate together for this potential initiative.
3. Emergency Preparedness Guide
 - Town administration has budgeted money for printing and postage of the guide in the next fiscal year's budget. If approved at town meeting in May, it could be printed and mailed to residents as early as July 2023.
4. Accessibility accommodations for January Special Town Meeting
 - Town administration did their due diligence to meet accessible needs and have planned implementation of all of the COD recommendations with the exception of remote access, which was not possible at the Mary Rowland School primarily due to engineering logistics that could not be met.
 - Lesley and Pat will be there to assist with logistics for mobility impaired individuals.
 - Town administration's meeting with the Massachusetts Attorney General and the Massachusetts Office on Disability determined that remote participation in the meeting is not legally required at this time.
 - There is a document on the town website for logistics and procedures that includes a map of the site with designated accessible parking and other pertinent logistics.
5. COD 2023 initiatives and directives / ideas
 - Town meeting accessibility for all department and committee meetings

- Reassess our current initiatives, determine what has been accomplished and what needs continued attention.
 - i. Examples could include sidewalks, businesses etc.

Meeting adjourned: 7:59pm

Respectfully submitted,
Lesley Allison