

EGREMONT HOUSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING

MARCH 1, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. by chairman Fred Gordon. Attending were committee members Richard Allen, Judi Goodman, Fred Gordon, Mark Holmes, Bruce Kafenbaum and Doug Mishkin. Also attending for all or part of the meeting were Lucinda Vermeulen of the selectboard, Buzz McGraw of the Egremont Housing Trust, and Egremonters Lisa and Kevin Balestro, James DiPisa and Marcia Arland.

Minutes of the meeting of February 2 were approved unanimously after minor corrections.

Fred Gordon reported that the selectboard had not yet considered the RFP; Lucinda Vermeulen indicated it might be considered at the March 15 Selectboard meeting. Fred Gordon reported on his discussions with George McGurn that the RFP be delayed until changes could be made to it regarding a possible state grant for infrastructure. Fred noted that the timeline for obtaining that grant began with the Town's filing of its expression of interest on February 4, which will be followed by its referral to either Mass Development, Housing Economic Development or Housing and Community Development. Review by one of those agencies should result in the Town submitting a full grant application by June 3, with an award expected in the fall and an award contract being executed by the end of 2022.

Fred Gordon noted that consummation of the project required dealing with zoning restrictions, obtaining some public or private funding if necessary, a buy-in from the townspeople and choosing a developer through a bidding process.

Several committee members expressed concern about delaying the RFP until an infrastructure grant was obtained. They noted that issuing it out now risked getting no bids, but that it could then be re-issued later after additional funding had been arranged. After discussion, it was moved that the language of the RFP be modified to refer to possible infrastructure and other financial assistance, and that as so modified it be resubmitted to the selectboard with a recommendation that it be issued without delay.

There was a discussion concerning the draft pamphlet regarding ADUs. Several committee members suggested that it be modified to be more encouraging. Mark Holmes will produce a revised version.

The committee set Tuesday, April 5 at 5:00 as the date and time for the next meeting of the committee, and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at approximately 5:54.