

**Town of Fairfield  
Office of Community & Economic Development  
Affordable Housing Commission  
September 19, 2012**

The Affordable Housing Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on September 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room in Old Town Hall.

**PRESENT:** Steve Grathwohl, Chair; Mary Galgota; Gerry Stuhlman;

**Also Present:** Mark Barnhart, Director of Housing and Economic Development; Sally Parker; Carol Martin, Executive Director, Fairfield Housing Authority

Mr. Grathwohl called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Distributions:** Minutes of July 18, 2012

***Minutes:***

The minutes of July 18, 2012 were approved.

***State Affordable Housing Law***

Mr. Grathwohl said the town has lost two recent zoning decisions involving the use of state law 8-30(g). He asked if the AHC should take positions on these applications. Ms. Parker said that from her position on the TP & Z, she thinks it would be more useful for AHC members to attend the meetings when these applications are being considered. Mr. Barnhart suggested that the Commission request a presentation by the developer seeking the designation and then make a judgment. Ms. Parker said there needed to be more conversation between the relevant Boards and Commissions.

***Fairfield Housing Authority***

Ms. Martin asked if there had been any change in the income requirements for Sec. 8 applicants. She said a comprehensive study of rents/incomes in Fairfield is necessary so that these figures can then be submitted to HUD as justification for having Fairfield as its own district. The FHA is actively pursuing potential recipients of funds and hopes to have 14 new vouchers in place by December 1, 2012. Mr. Barnhart noted that landlords for home improvements could use some of the CDBG funds administered by his department. Ms. Martin asked when the application process for these loans begins. Mr. Barnhart said interested parties could begin the process now. Ms. Galgota asked if these loans could be used for a home with an apartment. Mr. Barnhart said this was acceptable.

***Fairfield County Affordable Housing Network***

Mr. Grathwohl said there is to be meeting of this group on Monday, September 24, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. He encouraged Commissioners to attend.

***Incentive Housing Plan-Redding***

Mr. Grathwohl said Redding and Ridgefield are cooperating on a plan for affordable housing in this area. He distributed a Patch (9/17/12) article regarding the plan.

## **Apartments Next to Bed Bath and Beyond**

Mr. Grathwohl said Mr. Lenoci has abandoned plans for housing on this site. Mr. Barnhart said the former Miller VW and Brown Brothers property has reverted to the banks and they are on the market.

## ***Post Road West***

The Commissioners asked about the process for getting an overlay for the area from Thorpe Street to the Mill River Bridge. Ms. Parker said a developer has to initiate the application process and that it involves TP&Z meetings and public hearings. Mr. Barnhart said a zone category must be changes first and then the overlay considered. Ms. Parker suggested that the AHC meet with the TP & Z to explain their interest in the process and their suggestions.

## ***Restaurant Week***

Mr. Barnhart said 34 restaurants are participating in the event. It will be held the week of October 14. Diners will receiver 'passports' enabling them to be entered in a drawing and activate discounts at other participating retailers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Thee next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Goethner