

MINUTES

(MARKET) AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

October 8, 2019

7:00 pm

Attending: Aaron Pyman, Janet Childs, Malini Rao, Mary Greendale, Warren Chamberlain. Anne Huntington, and associate member Francesca Douyon. Bryan Clancy was absent.

Given that we had a guest to speak to us, we did not address the rest of the agenda.

Local developer Mark Heavner talked to the Committee about the issues he sees as interfering with affordable housing. He said that the cost of land was prohibitive and it alone ruled out affordability BUT if we had free land, from the town or otherwise, then the biggest issue was the zoning bylaws.

Much of what Heavner reported mirrors the report produced by MAPC (Southeast Region) "Living Little Report." We discussed a proposed law by Governor Baker that would make it easier to get new bylaws through Town Meeting by allowing them to pass on a majority vote and eliminating the current two-thirds requirement. There is always an element of NIMBYism in zoning discussions and opponents can create a very loud minority.

After hearing from Heavner, the Committee decided to review the bylaws by starting with the data in the MAPC Report (above) and comparing that to our bylaws.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Mary Greendale