



OBSERVER REPORT

FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE – 1-9-24

Hybrid Meeting –

LWVM Observer – Jim Zisson

Attendees- Thatcher Kezer, Kyle Wiley, Becky Curran Cutting, John Whipple, Dirk Isbrandsten, and Debra Larkin

MBTA 3A Zoning Update Discussion

- Becky is presently updating various Boards and groups on 3A Issue.
- Plans to update Select Board next week.
- Still receiving numerous calls from citizens
 - Concerns are Traffic, Schools, and Character of Town
 - Data shows this type of housing typically doesn't attract a large percentage of children.
 - Character - example: repurposing an office building at Tioga way would not appreciably change character of the town.
 - Zoning Changes require a 2/3 majority vote at Town Meeting
 - If affordability related, only requires a 50% majority at Town Meeting
 - May be mostly expansion of Smart Growth district.
 - Becky will retire prior to Town Meeting. Planning board Chair or another member will present plan at Town Meeting

Planning and Community Development Department Discussion

- Thatcher plans to bring a new department structure to Town Meeting. There will be a Department Director and five direct reports
 - Director
 - ARPA Coordinator
 - Town Planner (Junior position relative to Becky's level of experience)
 - Sustainability Coordinator

- Conservation agent
- Grant Writer- is only “new” position. Would essentially become self-supporting by bringing in many more dollars in grants than salary. Other positions already exist in some form or other.

Housing Production Plan Committee vs. Fair Housing Committee Roles

- HPP is action oriented.
- Fair Housing is bigger picture planning, education, etc.
- Some members expressed frustration that there is not a specific project on the table now that Coffin Property is no longer available.
- Significant work via grant had been done on planning for Coffin site.

Next Meeting February 13