



OBSERVER REPORT

FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE (FHC) – December 16, 2021 at the Jacobi Community Center and via Zoom LWVM Observer – Bonnie Grenier

Members Present -Debra Larkin, Dirk Isbrandtsen, Mimi Hollister, Teri McDonough, Deacon Joseph Whipple, Kurt James, Katie Farrell. Members Absent: Frank Evans
Guests: Ed Nilsson, Louis Meyi

Jason Silva, Becky Curran Cutting and Emily Battaglia had been scheduled to meet with the committee but were unable to attend due to other commitments.

Discussion about the December 7th: virtual forum to hear from the community about their vision for the reuse of the Coffin School site and the ensuing article in the Marblehead Reporter “Visioning session for the Coffin School mixed”. Some comments/concerns:

- General consensus that there were a lot of positive responses from the community during the meeting
- There seems to be a misconception by some that having (affordable/mixed use) housing on the site is a “done deal”. The purpose of bringing in the MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) is to study the possibility of housing on that site
- Reminder that this study is in the very early stages and there will be more input from the community in the future
- Lack of awareness of the Housing Production Plan study which was tasked with finding suitable places to develop housing in Marblehead. The Coffin School site was the favored choice according to public input.
- Several people expressed the need to keep as much open space as possible
- Need to be respectful of the neighbors’ viewpoints and reassuring them that this will be an inclusive and transparent process
- Need to get information out to the community via various social media platforms to keep people informed as to how this project is proceeding
- Some felt the Reporter article was too negative and suggested the idea of a Letter to the Editor to clarify the position of the MAPC study group
- Any housing on the site would be very attractive and have quality landscaping to enhance the property

- Ed Nilsson stated that for a project to be worthwhile for a developer, there should be at least 12 units per acre. The Coffin site is 3 acres which would equate to approximate 36 units. Oliver's Pont is a three-story building of the approximate size that could work on the site.

Committee members were asked to complete their assignment researching how other towns are acquiring funds for their affordable housing trust funds and where those funds are being disbursed.

Items tabled until next meeting: The possibility of one member of the Board of Selectmen serving as a liaison to the FHC, Housing Lotteries, and inviting the North Shore Housing Consortium to a future meeting.

LINKS TO “VISIONING FOR THE REUSE OF THE COFFIN SCHOOL SITE” Forum

[Visioning for the Reuse of the Coffin School Site: Forum I - YouTube](#)

[Visioning for the Coffin School Reuse \(mapc.org\)](#)

[16150ac8-c5e4-4f24-804b-c9001fa66a1f.pdf \(constantcontact.com\)](#)

[934a9103-8d9d-4b9e-bdd3-a26fd18c0962.pdf \(constantcontact.com\)](#)

https://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/GMT20211207-235233_Recording.txt

LINK TO HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAND FINAL REPORT:

https://www.marblehead.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4661/f/uploads/final_marblehead_hpp_for_dhcd_review_06.18.2020_1_0.pdf