



## OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

### **FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE (FHC) & HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (HPPIC)-6/17/25**

Hybrid Meeting- Recorded

LWVM Observers- Julie Matuschak, Bonnie Grenier

Attendees from FHC: Kurt James, Alex Eitler, Dan Fox, Thatcher Kezer, Debra Larkin, Deacon John Whipple

Attendees from HPPIC- Kurt James, Alex Eitler, Dan Fox, Thatcher Kezer, Deacon John Whipple, Nisha Austin

Minutes from the meeting of 5/13/25 were approved.

Merger of the FHC and HPPIC committees was the agenda item for this meeting. There is significant overlap in the responsibilities of these two committees. At the last meeting, a motion was made and passed to merge the two committees, develop a new mission statement, and suggest a membership roster for the merged committees.

There was discussion about the differences in the committees, for instance, the FHC has a focus on minority/ low-income housing, whereas HPPIC does not. Dan Fox suggested that the new mission statement preserve the purposes of both groups.

"The Marblehead Housing Committee" was agreed to as the proposed name for the new committee.

Nisha Austin shared a proposed mission statement, which is as follows:

The Marblehead Housing Committee works to expand access to fair and affordable housing for all residents through education, advocacy, and strategic implementation. We help the public and town officials understand housing challenges and opportunities while developing and implementing programs that expand, enhance, and create diverse housing options in Marblehead.

It was voted on and approved that the following be forwarded to the Select Board;  
    Merger of the two committees  
    The recommended proposed name  
    A proposed slate of committee members

There was discussion about the proposed slate of members for the new committee. Thatcher Kezer felt his presence on the committee as Town Administrator was not necessary, as he works closely with the Town Planner. Dan Fox stated he thought the Select Board could send a liaison to the meetings rather than have a member of the Board sit on the committee.

The number of at-large members to be included on the committee was discussed at length. It was suggested that too many at large members could create a quorum issue. After discussion, it was agreed that there be 9 members and 2 alternates on the committee as follows:

Housing Authority Director  
Town Planner  
Task Force representative  
Representative from the Disability Commission  
Director of Community Development  
Four at-large members  
2 alternates

Both committees voted unanimously to forward to the Select Board the recommendation to merge the two committees; adopt the proposed mission statement; and accept the proposed slate of members for the committee.

The next meeting will be held on Jul 15, 2025