



## **OBSERVER REPORT**

HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE – October 28, 2021 via Zoom  
LWVM Observer – Bonnie Grenier

Members in Attendance: Jason Silva, Becky Cutting, Kurt James, Dirk Isbrandtsen, Barton Hyte, John Buckey, Lou Meyi Members not in Attendance: Joan Cutler, Pam Foye, Moses Grader

Housing Production Plan (HPP) Update:

- The Board of Selectmen (BOS) will interview candidates for the four additional seats (in addition to the 5 seats for BOS members) on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) Board. Kurt James, Dirk Isbrandtsen, and Kristy Staples are applicants.
- Affordable Dwelling Units (ADUs) – Members from the Fair Housing Committee met with Jason and Becky to share information they learned about what other communities are doing in regards to ADUs. This information will be helpful to the Planning Board (PB) going forward. The PB will be looking for public input, possibly from a survey or public meeting. A public meeting scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> with the Planning Board has been scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Emma Battaglia, Project Manager from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) was introduced. She will be working with Lydia Slocum, an Intern at MAPC and Alexis Smith, a Principal Planner. Emma explained that early on they want to work with several focus groups from the community to gather information about the development of the Coffin School property. There are 19 direct abutters who will be invited to the first focus group to hear their concerns. Other focus groups from town staff, boards and committees will be held later.

There will be a public forum in December to discuss what options are appropriate for the development of the property. Things to consider: What type of housing? Rental vs. Home Owners? Will the school building be kept and renovated? What about Density? Is there a need for open space? Public amenities?

The importance of people understanding what affordable housing is and why there is a need for it in Marblehead was emphasized. The committee wants this to be a candid and non-confrontational process.

Letters of Interest will be requested from developers, both for-profit and non-profit, to determine who might be interested and what their vision would be for the development of the property.

Once the focus groups have met and developers have weighed-in, an RFP will be developed and sent out.