

HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

April 1, 2020

Virtual Housing Advisory Board

Members: Roger Blood, Steve Heikin, Bill Madsen Hardy, Jennifer Raitt, Rita McNally, Jonathan Klein, Mike Jacobs

Staff: Virginia, Bullock, Edward Bates, Joseph Viola, David Guzman

Roger Blood called the meeting to order at 3:01PM

1. **Approval to provide \$100,000 from the Town's Housing Trust to the Brookline Community Foundation Safety Net Fund for housing-related assistance**

Virginia and Roger provided background information on proposal for HAB to support a \$100,000 contribution from the Trust Fund to the Brookline Safety Net arising from the public health emergency and increased housing-related emergency needs. The Select Board, the previous evening, voted approval of this contribution, subject to a required HAB vote of approval as Trustees of the Fund. The \$100k would be allocated from a \$400k Trust Fund set-aside approved by the Select Board several years ago for future needs of existing affordable housing recipients facing unexpected and unaffordable housing cost increases, mainly from condominium special capital assessments.

After discussion and expressions of support by individual HAB members, Roger read the proposed vote and **Jonathan Klein MOVED and Bill Madsen Hardy SECONDED:**

VOTED: The Brookline Community Mental Health Center and the Brookline Community Foundation are reporting that the current Coronavirus pandemic is creating increased housing-related financial hardship among impacted members of our community and, therefore, increased calls upon the Brookline Community Foundation's BCF Safety Net Fund for housing-related assistance.

In response, as Trustees of the Town's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the Brookline Housing Advisory Board (HAB) concurs with the Brookline Select Board's March 31 vote to seek a Housing Trust Fund contribution to the BCF Safety Net Fund in the amount of \$100,000 to increase the BCF Fund's ability to serve housing-related needs arising from the pandemic crisis.

This Trust Fund contribution will be drawn from a \$400,000 Trust Fund set-aside previously approved by the Select Board which was designated for the purpose of assisting Brookline owners of affordable units facing displacement resulting from unanticipated and unaffordable housing cost increases.

All Trust Fund contribution proceeds will be devoted to direct housing-related assistance to eligible individuals and households facing displacement and homelessness resulting from loss of income caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Disbursement of contribution funds will be administered by designated trained personnel of the Brookline Community Mental Health Center. Details relating to priorities and procedures will be worked out between Housing Division and Mental Health Center and BCF senior staff.

HAB members voted unanimously to approve this motion.

2. Updates

HAB members and Virginia provided brief updates to each other. Roger reported that the Town Election has been postponed until Tuesday, June 9, 2020 and Town Meeting has been rescheduled for June 23, 2020. Virginia further explained that Town Meeting will have a shortened agenda and that there will be a warrant article for vote which will align the Town's Housing Trust with state laws. Two articles involving the Trust Fund and the HAB will be retained on the shortened Warrant.

Roger and Virginia suggested that the HAB tentatively schedule the next virtual meeting for April 15th at 3pm, subject to confirmation of agenda items needing attention.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15PM