

Meeting Minutes for the sixth meeting of the Land Bank Study Committee

5.15.19 6:00 PM Room 310 of Town Hall

Present: David Lescohier, Harold Petersen, Bob Lepson, Joanne Sullivan, Linda Pehlke, Heather Hamilton, Chair

The chair opened the meeting at 6:07 PM.

The meeting minutes from both the 3.25.19 meeting as well as the meeting minutes from 2.27.19 were distributed. The members reviewed the meeting minutes. A motion was made to accept both meeting minutes by Joanne Sullivan. It was seconded by David Lescohier. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The Chair and David Lescohier discussed meetings they have had with individual members of the Brookline legislative delegation that include Rep Vitolo, Rep Elugardo, Sen Creem, as well as Rep Connolly of Cambridge. The meetings covered topics such as affordable housing, CPA, home rule petition, currently filed bills. The sense from some of the delegation was that home rule petition would be easier to ask for than amending the CPA or passing the CPA (after two previous failures and a number of overrides). However, home rule will present its own challenges. Brookline will probably need to sign on to another petition as the state legislature does not grant taxation authority lightly.

David Lescohier, Linda Pehlke (and Blair Hines although absent from this meeting), met with housing and community development planners in Somerville and learned more about legislative property transfer fee efforts underway in Cambridge and Somerville. There is another bill filed through Rep. Connolly that is a local option enabling legislation that would allow communities like Brookline to choose to opt in to a property transfer fee, which is currently focused on affordable housing. David Lescohier thought it might be beneficial to extend an invitation to Rep Connolly for a future meeting as a guest speaker.

David Lescohier had drafted two sets of language to be considered by the committee to possibly file with the State House. One was writing exactly what we intended to request, the other would allow for flexibility (to be merged with other requests, broad strokes of what we wanted but not how). The committee reviewed the language and will be discussed at a future meeting. More investigation on the broad strokes approach is needed. It was most people's preferred method. The filing deadline is end of August 2019, so we would need to complete this in the next two meetings.

Next steps discussed include:

- 1) Refine the broad strokes language for a home rule petition or local option
- 2) Meet with Somerville/Cambridge to understand if we should sign on to one of their initiatives
- 3) Understand what the real estate lobby thinks about a transfer fee/tax

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Potential guest speaker for an upcoming meeting: Community Preservation Coalition, Executive Director Sagamore, Dan Lyons (real estate agent for COMPASS as well as Parks and Rec Commissioner), Representatives from Cambridge/Somerville to discuss their legislation.

Our next meeting will be determined through a Doodle pool sometime in June.