

Hamilton Affordable Housing Trust

MINUTES OF MEETING

Zoom Meeting

May 15, 2025

HAHT Members Present Online: Chair Jamie Knudsen, David Smith, Suzanne Soffa

Also Present: Mark Connors, Planning Director/Interim AHT Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) Chair Jamie Knudsen opened the Zoom-only meeting at 6:07 p.m. and took a roll call. A three-member quorum that included David Smith, Suzanne Soffa, and Mr. Knudsen was present online.

POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL REORGANIZATION

Mr. Knudsen noted that the AHT does not have a designated Select Board member yet and that there is another vacancy for a regular member. Mr. Connors noted that all residents of Hamilton are eligible for this role upon submission of an application to the Select Board, although no residents had submitted the form at the time of this meeting.

REVIEW AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF ARTICLE/LETTER TO THE EDITOR HIGHLIGHTING THE TRUST'S WORK AND ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

The Trust opened discussion of a draft article Mr. Smith had written highlighting the role of the Affordable Housing Trust in the community. Ms. Soffa noted that it would be preferable to publish the article with the AHT serving as a guest author rather than publishing the piece as a letter to the editor. Mr. Smith raised the concern that *H-W News* had not responded to his inquiry about considering the article for publication, and that it was unclear whether the article would have to be published under a current journalist's byline or under the name of an AHT member. Ms. Soffa proposed that AHT submit the article to *H-W News* with their preferred authorship, then await feedback from the newspaper. Ms. Soffa and Mr. Smith suggested submitting additional photos with the article, including photos of the Asbury Street and Willow Street affordable housing projects.

DECISION:

Mr. Smith made a motion to accept the latest version of the article for publication in *H-W News*. Mr. Smith amended his motion to authorize Mr. Knudsen to present a copy of the article to Eric Convey of *H-W News* and decide the mode of authorship pending feedback. Ms. Soffa seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with "ayes" from Mr. Smith, Ms. Soffa, and Mr. Knudsen, (3-0) unanimous among those present.

OTHER BUSINESS

Not discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Soffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with "ayes" from Mr. Smith, Ms. Soffa, and Mr. Knudsen, (3-0) unanimous among those present.

Prepared by:

Alicia Brennan
Planning and Conservation Coordinator

Date

Respectfully submitted as approved at the _____ meeting.

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Draft article / letter to the editor regarding Habitat for Humanity, David Smith and Sally Hunter