

Newton Housing Partnership Meeting
Notes from October 27, 2020 Meeting
Conference Call Meeting
6:00-8:00 pm

Partnership Members in Attendance: Eliza Datta, Doris Ann Sweet, John Hennesey, Mark Caggiano, Josephine McNeil, Lizbeth Heyer, Kathy Marchi, Michael Kaufman, Adam Goldstein, Lynn Weisberg, Ted Hess-Mahan, Dana Hanson, David Ennis

Others in Attendance: Amanda Berman, Barney Heath, Eamon Bencivengo, Dana Hanson, Shaylyn Davis, and members of the community

Armory Presentation

Affirmative Investments made a presentation on alternative development scenarios for the Newton Armory site. They have met with the Massachusetts Historic Commission and DCAM which were prepared to entertain alternatives other than total preservation. Affirmative presented four alternatives:

1. Retain the buildings. This will yield thirty-three (33) senior and/or special needs units. This option may be difficult to make work.
2. Keep the head house but demolish the drill shed. This will yield fifty-three (53) one-bedroom units or-
3. Keep the head house but demolish the drill shed. This will yield forty-six (46) family units.
4. Total demolition. This will yield forty-six (46) family units.

Comments: Members of the Partnership and community members expressed some concerns about the potential expense of the project, the environmental impact, and the ramifications of demolishing the building in its entirety. Many expressed hope that the armory could be used as affordable housing units for families.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Staff reported that the City did not receive the MAPC grant.
- The City is considering putting out an RFP for planning assistance on this issue.

Project Updates

Staff provided the following project updates:

- Riverside passed the City Council.
- The COVID-19 rent subsidy has been extended six months.
- The Haywood House funding budget passed both the CPC and the Planning Board.

Upcoming Meetings

NHP meetings will be held the 3rd Tuesday of every month 6-8pm