



Town of Danvers Danvers Affordable Housing Trust

1 Sylvan Street, Danvers, Massachusetts 01923 | p: 978-777-0001

www.danversma.gov

Minutes March 7, 2019

Attending: Don Gates, John Alden, Stacey Bernson, Tish Lentine

Staff Attending: Susan Fletcher

20 Wayside Drive and 2 Jalbert Lane: Title Search

It was explained that there is \$128,464 in HOME funds available for an affordable housing project in Danvers. However if the funds are not reserved for a specific project by June 30, 2019 they will revert to the HOME Consortium's grant program and will be allocated to a project in the region. In an effort to retain the funds for a project in Danvers, members discussed using the funds to acquire 20 Wayside Drive or 2 Jalbert Lane from the Town. Both of these properties were taken for non-payment of taxes.

In speaking with Town Counsel staff has confirmed that Chapter VI of the Town of Danvers General Bylaws allows the Board of Selectmen to dispose of public property at a public auction without Town Meeting approval. In addition conditions such as the sale is contingent on an affordability restriction being placed on the property and that it be included in the SHI for the Town is allowed as one of the conditions for the sale. During the discussion it was noted that although the Selectmen are allowed to dispose of public property at a public auction they might not be comfortable with authorizing the sale without Town Meeting weighting in.

Following the title searches Rich Maloney will be consulted as to what, if any, permits/variances will be needed prior to any transfer or development of the parcel. Prior to acquiring either of these properties however we need to ensure that they have a clear title. It is estimated that the cost of the title search for the two properties would not exceed \$2,000.

After a brief discussion a motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to allocate up to \$2,000 for title searches for 20 Wayside Drive and 2 Jalbert Lane.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fletcher
Senior Staff Planner