

ARTICLE 14

WARRANT COMMITTEE MEMBER: BRENT NELSON

Article 14. Affordable Housing Trust Request for Funding

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 and determine in what manner said sum shall be raised for the purpose of funding the Medfield Affordable Housing Trust (the “MAHT” or Trust) to employ consultants, including lawyers, to advise it in planning and negotiating with third party developers and/or operators of group homes for citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities (“IDD”), a key goal of the Trust’s Housing Production Plan (HPP); or do or act anything in relation thereto.

POSITIVE MOTION

Move that the Town appropriate **\$15,000** from Free Cash to the Affordable Housing Trust, for purposes set out in the Warrant.

Summary: At the 2017 Annual Meeting, the Town approved the creation of the Medfield Affordable Housing Trust and funded the Trust with a \$1 million bond authorization to fund affordable housing projects in Medfield. However, this authority is limited to acquiring real property or a deed restriction in real property, but not for other purposes, such as to pay consultants to study or structure an affordable housing proposal. Since the Trust does not have an operating source of funds, it is financially constrained from pursuing its affordable housing goals promulgated in its Housing Production Plan, which guides the Town in achieving and maintaining Chapter 40B safe harbor. One of the Trust’s unmet HPP goals is the creation of a group home to provide affordable housing to Medfield area citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Trust currently has a consultant surveying area families whose adult children with IDD might benefit from a group home. When the results from the current study are accepted by the Trust, a Request for Information from group home developer/operators will be issued, ultimately leading to a Request for Proposal for the establishment of a group home in Medfield. It is to engage any needed expert to advise the Trust and to prepare the requests for the group home initiative that the Affordable Housing Trust is requesting this one-time appropriation from Town Meeting.