

TOWN OF EASTON
Fair & Affordable Housing Partnership
136 Elm Street
North Easton, Massachusetts 02356
http://www.easton.ma.us/Directory/housing_partnership.html

December 3, 2009

David Colton, Chair
Easton Affordable Housing Trust
136 Elm Street
North Easton, MA 02356

RE: Easton Affordable Housing Trust Action Plan (draft)

Dear Mr. Colton:

The Easton Fair and Affordable Housing Partnership Committee recently reviewed the draft of the Easton Affordable Housing Trust Action Plan. During our November 23rd meeting the FAHPC discussed the draft. We feel that the Affordable Housing Trust and the Action Plan will be fundamental in the implementation of the town's Housing Production Plan.

The mission, goals and initiatives outlined in the Action Plan provide a sensible, clear strategy to the successful development of much-needed rental property, affordable housing and special needs housing. Providing housing assistance programs, homebuyer education programs and grants to our residents will greatly enhance town services.

Of particular interest was the hiring of a Community Housing Specialist. Having a dedicated staff person who is properly educated in the field is critical to the success of Easton's expansion of affordable housing inventory to reach our 10% goal. By providing increased public awareness of affordable housing needs, communication between related committees united in the goal of meeting our affordable housing needs, providing housing service, administering housing programs and the many other duties mentioned in the Action Plan, this individual will significantly facilitate the affordable housing production process. The FAHPC feels that funding the salary from CPA funds for this staff member is an excellent idea and an appropriate use of the funds.

We pledge our full support of the Action Plan and look forward to working with the Trust in reaching our joint mission in providing housing for residents of all income levels.

Respectfully yours,

The Fair and Affordable Housing Partnership Committee

Donna K. Bonia, Chair
Mary Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Clerk
Calvin Harris
Paula Piccinin
Ghardy Daniel

Cc: Community Preservation Committee