

Town of Crystal Bay
Finland Home Solutions Steering Committee
Clair Nelson Finland Community Center

Minutes

December 11th, 2024

- I. Attendance: Ursula Lang, Stacy Breden, Lise Abazs, Tracy Chaplin,
- II. Lise Abazs called the Meeting of the Housing Steering Committee to order at 5:35pm.
 - A. MOTION to accept the November Finland Home Solutions Minutes.
Motioned by Lise Abazs seconded by Stacy Breden approved by unanimous consent.
 - B. Lise Report:
 - a. I haven't followed up with anything this month... I have reached out to Rachel Clarke to see if she is able to take over as Coordinator of this project rather than just the Secretary, since I have not been able to do it justice.
 - b. Home Solutions Received \$9175.00 from Friends of Finland for the MN Age Friendly Grant to spend down by May 2025. Funds to be spent on Project Coordination, Community Outreach, Research, Facilitation, Consulting, Associated Expenses.
 - c. Stacy will put the Outreach Coordinator Information sheets out at the Town Meeting in December.
 - C. Rachel's Report:
 - a. Age Friendly MN Newsletter call for input - do we want to submit anything? Maybe after the February Meeting.
 - D. Ursula Lang ESMC (Empowering Small Minnesota Communities): Update:
 - a. Showed her plans for coming up with a plan by Early January.
 - b. Thinking about a community strategy that has action projects associated with it.
 - c. This will help our area and group prepare for growth & future development.
 - d. Community Strategy and Strong Relationships.
 - e. Look for Leaders and Champions
 - f. Community has to own the project.
 - g. Possibility of offering a class on how to be a landlord may be a good FOF class in partnership with this project.
 - E. Planning for February Community Meeting
 - 1. Agenda to Clerk for printing by: Monday January 6th.
 - 2. Content: What will spark interest in our project at the meeting?
 - 3. Timeline: To see progress at our February Meeting.
 - 4. Follow-up after the February Meeting.

III. **Close Meeting:** MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm until January 8th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Clair Nelson Finland Community Center. Motioned by Lise Seconded by Stacy approved by unanimous consent.



Lise Abazs

Community Outreach Coordinator

VACANT

Committee Secretary



Stacy Breden - Crystal Bay Township Clerk

Town of Crystal Bay
Finland Home Solutions Steering Committee
Clair Nelson Finland Community Center

Minutes

November 13, 2024

- I. Attendees: Lise Abazs, Sarah Mayer, Pam Melby, Rachel Clark, Stacy Breden
Zoom Attendees: Ursula Lang, Tracy Chaplain
- II. Lise Abazs called the Meeting of the Housing Steering Committee to order at 5:31pm.
 - A. **Introductions**
 - B. **Minutes/Notes from October 9th, 2024 approval** - Motion by Sarah Mayer seconded by Rachel Clark to approve.
 - C. **Rachel's Updates (From the Agenda):**
 - a. I talked to Shawn from IRRRB and getting a grant from them to help with septic expansions or ADU building won't be as easy as we thought. It's a 1:1 match and has to be through a non-profit or government entity. The grantee needs to have the money upfront and won't consider approving grants if we don't have the match money. He said he is willing to come chat with us if/when we come up with a project and a way to get the seed money
 - b. I have also been working on the speaker's narratives.
 - D. **Lise Report:**
 - a. Rachel won't be here tonight but she is working on gathering our information from the last few months, and putting it together concisely into something that can be presented.
 - b. Attended MN Age-Friendly changemakers, a Northern MN group, which gave a few ideas:
 - i. AARP site
 - ii. MN Housing Partnership, (<https://mhponline.org>) offers resources and technical assistance for communities like ours: Premade messaging guide and tools; setting up local housing trust funds; strengthening rural communities program
 - E. **Ursula Lang, Empowering Small Minnesota Communities Project Lead**
 - a. Scope of Project Work Handout given out
 - i. Assemble GIS dataset (geographic information systems). We have access to a center at the university that are specialists in using GIS. Sean, the contact has worked with the center many times.
 - ii. Community Land Trust Options. Understanding pros and cons of land trust models in this community.
 1. **Question:** Are there existing programs in the area that could be utilized? 1Roof is no longer an option. Land Access Alliance, similar focus, questions, and aspirations
 2. A grad student will be focusing on the Septic issue, then the Land Trust issue.

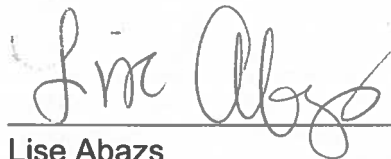
- iii. Alternative and Creative Solutions. ADUs, cohousing models, faith based orgs owning land
- iv. Graduate Students at the Humphrey School and their advisor are developing a scope of work related to septic systems and housing in rural contexts. Possible examples that are out there; increasing units while accepting septic constraints. There should be some outcomes with this at the end of the semester.
- b. Stacy handed out the 2020 5-year census with statistics and demographics of Crystal Bay Township.
- c. Separate from the January community meeting; hoping to develop 2 workshops
 - i. Septic System Issues; questions about the septic system requirements and constraints. A shortlist of people to include have been made; Christine McCarthy (mtg Dec 12), Septic installer, Water Resources person from the University.
 - 1. *Question:* The septic system issue goes hand in hand with ADUs, and ADUs will need an ordinance from the County in order to go through. Could we get guidance on how to start this process?
 - 2. The IRRRB Funds for expanding septic systems was brought up, there is about \$10,000 available, but it's money that has to go through a municipality or government, and it's a 1 to 1 match.
 - ii. Building on Findings from FHS meetings and the previous workshop.
 - 1. There are alliances of Land Trusts available, and there are already existing models that we should be able to tap into.
 - 2. Land Access Alliance should definitely be looped in. Housing is an essential part of their outlook.
- d. Ursula plans to be at the December meeting, and has several meetings set up before then (Christine McCarthy, Tara Soleim).
- e. This handout is the most official scope of work, but isn't the final contract that will be signed. The Township board is backing the project, but looking to sign at the Township meeting to be official. (November 19th is the next meeting)
 - i. Ursula can send over a final draft for the Township to sign for the November 19th Township meeting.

F. Discussion

- a. Pam Melby is resigning from the Secretary position.
 - i. If no one from the steering committee wants to step into the position, we could ask the Friends of Finland, before we have to put an ad in the paper.
- b. Outreach: how do we get community members to come in (or back) to meetings?
 - i. We could send out an email questionnaire to those who have come to meetings in the past, but no longer do. Rachel should have the emails of all previous members.
 - ii. This is a good topic for the January meeting to get more ideas from a larger group of people.
- c. January Community Gathering

- i. Get the curiosity piqued to shift back into more engagement.
- ii. Rachel and Lise are working on a presentation (of some sort, power point? Handouts?) as a summary for the meeting. This is to bring everyone up to speed that are interested that didn't attend all the previous meetings. Why is this important, and something physical to present the lessons that we have already learned. Brief handouts would be useful since people could take it home to study. A graphic of roads and pathways with roadblocks and dead ends, splits, and how we are going to get through the barriers going forward.
- iii. Rachel is putting together narratives of the different speakers that we've had with all the different topics. 1Roof, Habitat for Humanity, this will give a good overview of the information gathering portion of the committee.
- iv. Getting a chunk of text, images, sources would be great, and ESMC has grad students that can work on visuals.
 - 1. *Get some of this information to ESMC, summary narratives, barriers, etc. Tracy and Ursula can bring something to the next meeting.*
- v. We should set a meeting date for January. Same time as our usual meetings? Tentatively scheduled for January 8th, 2025. Dinner at 5pm, and meeting 5:30 to 7:30.
- vi. A large interactive map of Finland could be a way to engage the group to think creatively about where housing could be placed, if only there were septic options.

III. **Close Meeting:** Consensus to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm until December 11th at 5:30 p.m. at the Clair Nelson Finland Community Center.



Lise Abazs
Community Outreach Coordinator

Seat Vacant
Pam Melby
Committee Secretary

 12/11/24
Stacy Breden - Crystal Bay Township Clerk

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