

Intro Meeting: Finland Home Solutions and LAA

Finland Community Center

July, 2nd 2024

Attending:

Rumbi Masawi, Tracy Chaplin, Honor Schauland, Shannon Walz, Lise Abazs, Mike Nikula (Finn), Stacy Breden, Natalie Lavenstein, Rachel Fleming.

*See photo of poster on page 3

Facilitating: Tracy

Introductions by attendees

Origins of LAA

- A not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, which was formed in 2020 by a group of women interested in: transforming how communities relate to land, building community resilience, sharing wealth, and providing access to land for farming and foraging for people who have been traditionally marginalized
- Aims to keep land within the community for the community
- Mainly focused on Finland area with a regional scope of NE MN and 1854 Treaty territory.

Origins of FHS

- 22 years ago a study for Affordable Housing was conducted. There has been 20 years of discussion and meetings on this topic. Although well intentioned, these meetings did not produce many results
- Finland Home Solutions started in early 2024
- Wants to keep existing housing available to locals
- Currently focused on finding homes that need rehab

Guiding Questions: Where is there overlap between LAA & FHS? How can we support each other?

Scope & Updates LAA

- Using tools like easements to protect the land in perpetuity for ag, housing, cultural access, conservation, etc.
- May make its own land trust

- Part of the Land Trust Alliance
- Katherine Millin expert on all things "common". Starting on July 18th

Scope & Updates FHS

- HRA will help with the transition of tax forfeited county land to FHS
- Monthly meetings to help educate the FHS committee
- Not facing as much opposition
- Finland is anti dense housing
- Infamous for having 20 years of meetings, grants, etc but no results

Both

- Tax forfeited land from the County could benefit both groups
- Haveri land is a good case study. Folks want to see it stay as farmland with a family on it. FHS could manage the house, LAA could manage the land.
- Community needs education. Folks are scared of condos popping up where they shouldn't
- Part of the Land Trust Alliance, LAA is willing to share resources
- Don't want to be competitive. All for the good of the community
- One land trust, one system
- If we find funding together, we will be stronger
- Potential to share the same legal help

Agreements

- Any formal agreements, would have to be approved by the township
- Leaning towards a more social agreement, based on principles
- Share property availability info, share funding opportunities, don't compete, be pals, be transparent, share constructive feedback

Asks

Can LAA speak to FHS committee about tenure tools, etc?

Other

Policy changes in Lake County. Some changes may have started July 1st. How are MN counties handling tax fortified land?



