

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Residents of the Town of Chilmark

The Chilmark Housing Committee is dedicated to developing permanent affordable housing options for the people who live, work or volunteer in Chilmark. The original town by-law, passed in 2001, created the Housing Committee to establish standards for affordable housing eligibility and oversee affordable housing programs and opportunities. We have made significant progress this past year in affordable rental units, Homesite Housing, and the Middle Line Road Project.

The Rental Assistance Program, funded by the Community Preservation Fund, encourages the owner of a rental home to convert from a summer season rental to an affordable year-round rental. There is no loss of income to the owner through this rent subsidized program. We now have three such units in town and hope to expand the program.

After years of work on eligibility guidelines, the Homesite Housing Program has its first recipient of an affordable homesite housing lot. This is a significant milestone for Chilmark and the committee is hopeful that this program can create many more housing opportunities. A landowner may carve away one acre from a larger parcel and select an eligible purchaser or request that the Board of Selectmen hold a lottery for a recipient. The deed for this land and its dwelling must contain a deed rider for perpetual affordability.

The Middle Line Road Project will be the Town's most challenging affordable housing effort for the next couple years. Following the positive feasibility study, drafted by South Mountain Company, Inc., the concept plan was adopted and passed at the annual town meeting in April 2005. A project developer will be charged with permitting, construction, sale of six units, and management of six rental units. This concept plan is available for viewing at the town hall or online at the town's website.

The Chilmark Housing Committee would like to recognize the accomplishments of the late Molly Flender. Beginning on the Affordable Housing Advisory Sub-Committee to the Planning Board, Molly dedicated her energy to establishing housing as a top priority for the Town. Molly chaired the Housing Committee formed in 2001 for four years and was Chilmark's representative to the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority. Molly's vision for maintaining a diverse community through a perpetually affordable pool of homes in Chilmark together with her countless hours of work to realize this goal, makes her one of Chilmark's heroines.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Schwab, Chairman
Zelda Gamson
Jim Feiner
William Randol
Andrew Goldman
Josh Scott
Steve Gallas