

1. Please state your department's or committee's charge or job description.

Our charge is our mission statement:

The Hingham Affordable Housing Trust Fund, created by Town Meeting in 2007, aims to further the following goals:

- The Trust seeks to **preserve affordable housing** through a variety of means which will benefit both current homeowners and potential new residents.
- The Trust will propose, support and develop **affordable housing** that contributes positively to the character of the town, considering both Hingham's history and its future.
- The Trust will engage in **education and advocacy** with the goal of promoting the diversity of Hingham's population.

2. To whom is your department or committee accountable?

Our Trust is accountable to the Selectmen, to the Town Finance Director, and to the Town treasurer, who is custodian of our funds and to Town Meeting.

3. What three things contribute most to the successful functioning of your department or committee?

The three things are:

- Our members who work together well and who all have areas of expertise to add to our decision making.
- The cooperation of various Town Boards and Committees.
- The need for affordable housing in our community.

4. What three things would you change to bring about more effective functioning?

- We would like more communication on financing mechanisms
- We think there should be a central database feature in Town that allows department heads or authorized individuals to enter information from which other departments could benefit. Examples would be capital needs projects underway or out for bid with the data base identifying project status, costs, awardees, timeframe, and department contact person. In addition, one could post grant

programs, lotteries, utility abatement programs, seminars, etc. that may be useful to several departments in Town. This system may be best described as a clearinghouse of information that can be used as a resource.

- We would like more timely recording of deposits to the HAHT account which would ensure an accurate account balance. This would assist in the Trust's strategic planning and would ensure capacity to meet ongoing expenses.

5. What challenges do you anticipate that might impact the work of your department or committee in the future and what changes would you suggest for addressing those challenges?

Our major challenge is the cost of providing affordable housing opportunities in Hingham. Relative to this, of course, is the availability of funding from grants, donations and the CPC. We also face the challenge of the up-front cost of producing "green" buildings versus the long term savings in maintenance costs to the homeowners. We try always to be aware of and to meet the concerns of our community.

6. Do you have anything to add?