

The Roundtable

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Build it- and they will come

Or so hope the folks at the Bangor Habitat for Humanity. The executive director of the organization, Sara Trafton, spoke of the need for some families to occupy new condominiums in Old Town, and she described the work of the agency.

Tom Dorrity, a board member of Habitat, introduced Ms. Trafton. She dispelled some myths about their house building projects and told how people can apply to buy one. Habitat does not give the houses away; rather potential buyers are partnered with Habitat to work through the mortgage process. The appeal for condos seems to be lower than for single-family dwellings. “Getting into condos is new for us,” she said.

“There is a nationwide housing crisis,” Ms. Trafton said. “Habitat for Humanity has been working on completing one home per year. We are now moving to complete five homes per year.” It costs Habitat \$75,000-\$80,000 per house to build. She asked us to

spread the word about finding families who will qualify to acquire the new condos in Old Town. If a family must leave before the end of their mortgage term, Ms. Trafton said they have to pay back Habitat for Humanity for the mortgage. We have not had a foreclosure in thirty years.” The organization used to deal with the mortgage process, but now uses a third party bank to do that work. Partners must



qualify for mortgages, and Habitat for Humanity will help them.

The process involves first finding a family in need of a home, then building according to the needs of that family. Habitat is interested in “building green” that includes installing heat pumps, quality insulation and solar energy.

Jimmy Carter is the national spokesman for Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Trafton told a story that she heard at a conference about the 90-year-old Mr. Carter being at a “build.” The volunteers were all busy constructing a home when it began to rain. They scurried to their buses. Mr. Carter boarded each bus and said, “Please get off the bus. We’re not finished yet.”

News and Notes

Habitat for Humanity is celebrating its 30th anniversary. **Les Myers** is celebrating a somewhat older birthday, but appreciates the singing harmony of the membership on his birthday (today). Icing on the birthday cake in the form of table lottery winnings also came his way.



Tom Dorrity reminded us of the Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast scheduled for Monday, November 11 at Jeff’s Catering. He mentioned also that his father had donated his body to the University of New England where a ceremony took place this past Saturday. Bill Dorrity taught at Eastern Maine Community College for many years.

President Ken Nagle seeks donations for the next round of the Wheelchair Project. Each chair costs \$165 and twenty are needed.

Lisa Wahlstrom and **Tom Violette** are gaveling the annual auction into reality. Tom said they seek a different mix of donations this year. He will send an email to each contributor to remind us of what we have donated for past auctions.

Tom told of his visit to Inland Hospital (not as a patient) in Waterville with a new cardiologist. The cardiologist told Tom of a patient he had while still an intern that told him of the Rotary scholarships. The cardiologist applied, won a scholarship, and was able to continue his training with more financial ease.

Sara Trafton brought materials promoting and describing Habitat for Humanity. One piece described the ReStore in which a photo of **Karen Schaller** appeared. **Paul Miragliuolo** seized that fine opportunity.

“Wear red tomorrow,” said **Caroline King**, to demonstrate support for the families and firefighters affected by the explosion in Farmington. *Les Myers- September 19, 2019*



Mt. Hope Cemetery- September 19, 2019



Cross purposes