

Calendar, February 2012

School House Road Year-Round Housing

The December *Calendar* reported that the two units of housing that CICA is building on School House Road would be put on hold through the winter and completed in the spring. This was primarily the result of not being able to complete some of the financial and legal arrangements before the construction window closed for the winter. These legal and financial arrangements can and are being completed during the winter.

Construction will start up again in April. The duplex will be delivered toward the middle of May, and should be ready for occupancy on July 1. So, working back from then, CICA expects to be making application forms available to possible renters about March 15. More detailed information about the units and the eligibility requirements will be sent to everybody on Chebeague before then. This edition of the *Calendar* can only provide a short summary of what the housing will be like and who it is intended to serve.

The building contains two, two-story, three-bedroom units, with living room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor and the bedrooms upstairs. The units will be set back from School House Road, with the kitchens facing the driveway into the site, and the living rooms facing south, onto an open front yard and into the undeveloped woods that cover the rest of the lot.

Three-bedroom units give CICA the maximum flexibility for meeting the housing needs of Chebeaguers. They can accommodate families, couples, single people living as a group, or a single person. From its experience so far with housing on Chebeague, CICA has learned that this flexibility is critical, since the demand on the island – in terms of number of people and kinds of families – at any given time is quite unpredictable.

This housing is available to any year-round families, couples, or single people with incomes below \$54,400 for a single person, \$62,200 for a family of two, \$70,000 for a family of three, or \$77,600 for a family of four. Other characteristics of applicants will also be considered: how long they have lived on Chebeague, the number of people being housed, children in the household, work, paid or volunteer, for the Town or community organizations, and the need for housing. The applications will be kept completely confidential and will be reviewed by a committee that is independent of CICA's Housing Committee.

Each renter with income (meaning not children) is expected to pay 28 percent of their income in rent. They will also be responsible for the utilities, which are expected to be moderate since the building will be very energy efficient. CICA pays the taxes, maintenance costs and insurance on the building. Because of these ongoing expenses for the building, CICA requires that each renter with income pay a minimum of \$500 per month.

If you or someone you know would be interested in applying for this housing, please contact Beth Howe, Donna Damon, Bob Earnest, Deb Hall or Ruth Slagle and when the applications are available, we will send one to you or them.