

Cutline: Ralph Allen, Erin Trebisacci and Steve Daniels hold approved afford housing plan.

The Town of Manteo and Renaissance Construction are thrilled with the recently approved affordable housing plan. Erin Trebisacci, Town Planner, and Ralph Allen, Town Inspections and Code Enforcement Manager, approved the first of hopefully many more affordable housing plans. "It has been a long time coming," said Erin. "We have been working on this for six years but it was worth the wait. This one home will pave the way for many others."

Without intervention, an inadequate supply of affordable housing for town residents and local employees will have a negative impact upon the ability of local employers to maintain an adequate local work force. The lack of affordable housing is a significant hardship for low income households, preventing them from meeting their other basic needs, such as nutrition, healthcare and saving for the future. "Affordable housing is a great need for many people, more than you might realize," said Ralph Allen. The Land Use Plan calls for 20 percent of the total number of residential units or lots within any covered development to be affordable housing units. When everyone's housing needs are met, the result is a more stable town environment. In 2004, when John Wilson was Mayor, the Town of Manteo adopted an affordable housing chapter in its land use plan. At that time it was extremely hard for anyone to even rent a home. This was especially true for our local teachers, firemen and retail workers. The purpose of this chapter is to promote high quality, affordable homes that will be located in many neighborhoods throughout our community. By providing housing that is affordable to our work force, we meet the goal of preserving and promoting a culturally and economically diverse population. It is a win-win situation. Everyone benefits. The property owner can sell the lot, the builder has a project and the town has a homeowner who feels connected to the community.

"The Affordable Housing Program is a new and exciting opportunity for me and has enabled me to own a brand new home here in Manteo. I am very grateful to the Town of Manteo and Steve Daniel's of Renaissance Construction for making this all possible!" said Patty Rhodes. Ms Rhodes is the first successful applicant to go to contract on an affordable home with this project.

Affordable housing applicants must first be approved. If you would like more information about the process, please contact Erin Trebisacci, Town Planner, at the Town of Manteo 252. 473.2133