



Town of Hopkinton Housing Committee

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HOPKINTON HOUSING COMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 16, 2023

ADOPTED

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Morin called the meeting of the Hopkinton Housing Committee to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 16th, 2023, in the large meeting room in the Hopkinton Town Hall.

Members Present: Tricia Morin, Dawn Berry, Craig Dunning, David Feller, Jack Ruderman, Katherine Mitchell, Thomas Lipoma, Richard Steele

Member Absent: Louise Carr

Staff Present: None

Others Present: Ivy Vann - Housing Consultant.

Ms. Morin asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes of Nov 5th, 2023. Ms. Morin made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ruderman seconded the motion. Mrs. Mitchell commented about the usage of the word “myths”. Ms. Mitchell made a motion to remove the word “myths” and correct the “survey monkey” wording seconded by Mr. Steele. The motion passed 5-1-2 with Mr. Lipoma and Mr. Ruderman abstaining. The motion to pass the modified minutes passed 6-1-1.

Community Outreach

Ms. Vann gave an overview of the community outreach and the synopsis drafted. Ms. Vann noted the openness of the community to different types of housing options with only 17% of attending community members noting they did not want new housing types.

Mr. Feller asked about negative feedback from the last community outreach. Ms. Vann noted that a group from the “Concerned Citizens of Hopkinton” had questions about why the committee was holding outreach sessions but overall their feedback was positive.

Mr. Feller suggested minor changes to the outreach summary including adding sources for data points, some minor word choices, and stating comparisons made between Hopkinton and similar sized towns.

Mr. Ruderman suggested a change to clarify affordable for rental vs non-rental housing.

Mr. Feller made a motion to accept the Community Outreach Synopsis seconded by Mr. Ruderman. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Update on Survey Monkey Outreach

Ms. Vann noted that 349 people have submitted the survey and asked for feedback about the Committee's desire to end or continue the survey. Ms. Vann noted that most respondents live in owned single family detached housing which matches the town's housing stock. Ms. Morin suggested that the survey stay live for more time and the Committee to continue to solicit outreach.

Ms. Vann suggested that she could create a flier that could be printed and handed out, encouraging people to take the survey.

Mr. Lipoma asked if there was a target percentage of Hopkinton to respond to the survey. Ms. Vann noted that a good target would be 10% of the population and that we were close to achieving that target.

Ms. Mitchell noted an issue with the perceived statement of the committee's mission. Mr. Ruderman clarified that the purpose of the committee was fairly clear. Mr. Steele had a question as to the commitment of the town to making changes to zoning and noted he would look into the wording of the initial grant application.

It was suggested that the survey remain active until at least December 15.

Discussion of Committee direction post Phase 1 Grant.

Ms. Morin noted that the Committee will likely not receive funds from the second grant proposal and the Committee should discuss how they would like to continue forward.

Ms. Vann noted that a code audit would likely cost between \$7,500 and \$10,000.

Discussion ensued as to the value of pursuing a regulatory code audit.

There was a suggestion made to maintain the Committee, continue the survey, request funding from the select board, and have the select board review the mission of the Committee.

Other Discussions

Mr. Steele noted that he would circulate a presentation he made regarding housing need.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, Jan 4th, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Morin adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Thomas Lipoma