



Town of Hopkinton Housing Committee

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HOPKINTON HOUSING COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES Thursday, June 1st, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Morin called the meeting of the Hopkinton Housing Committee to order at 5:31 p.m. on Thursday, June 1st, 2023, in the large meeting room in the Hopkinton Town Hall.

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

Member Absent: Richard Steele

Staff Present: Anna Wells-Economic Development Director

Others Present: Ivy Vann-Housing Consultant, via Zoom

Ms. Morin asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes of May 18, 2023. Mr. Dunning made a motion to approve seconded by Ms. Dawn. The motion passed 6-0 with Ms. Mitchel and Mr. Lipoma abstaining.

A brief conversation about the communication process between the Planning Board and the Housing Committee ensued along with the timelines between the committee goals and the zoning amendment process.

Review of the Housing Needs Assessment Report

Ms. Vann joined the meeting at 5:40 and there was a discussion of the Housing Needs Assessment. There was a request that the Committee receive notifications when there are updates to the report ahead of the meeting so members don't have to individually check the Padlet app to check for changes. Mr. Dunning brought up potential issues with the housing inventory and discussion ensued.

Community Outreach

Discussion regarding the type, timing, and location of our “kickoff” outreach event took place. Ms. Carr noted that the Slusser Center isn't available for the chosen date and there was discussion about a potential event plan. Ms. Vann discussed an overview of event activities including helping map their history in town and a dot vote process. It was discussed how the committee will advertise the event, what the committee's message to the public is and how to answer questions. Discussion took place regarding how to expand the scope of the community outreach to ensure a broader representative sample including easel around town with dot voting, an online survey, and other locations. There was additional discussion about what type and timing of outreach would take

place in an ideal situation if not required by the Housing Grant.

Additional Grant Applications

Ms. Wells noted that there is an impending deadline for applications for the Phase 2 NH Housing Grant. It was discussed how the application process would be handed off from the Economic Development Committee (EDC) to the Housing Committee. It was noted that the grants provide \$50k for phase 2 and \$100k phase 3 and that both phases could be applied for together. The requirements and purpose of the grants was discussed.

Additional Discussion

It was agreed that the Committee would hold an ice cream truck event on June 10th and that an event on July 4th may be a better date. Mr. Dunning asked how the community outreach event matches to the committee charter and discussion ensued about how the committee could best direct questions to and feedback from the community including how specific or broad specific questions should be. Mr. Dunning asked if it was possible to drastically reduce the size of the housing needs report for better digestion in the community. It was discussed that Ms. Vann could write an executive summary of the report.

There was a discussion about who would work with Ms. Vann on the Phase 2 grant proposal and Mr. Ruderman and Ms. Carr volunteered.

EDC Zoning Amendments

Ms. Wells provided an overview on the EDC proposed zoning changes that were presented to the Planning Board. Mr. Lipoma mentioned issues with the timing of the Planning Board requested timelines for amendments and the future timelines of the Housing Committee. The specific charge of the Housing Committee was further discussed and it was noted that commenting on proposed zoning changes is not a specific part of the charge. A member of the public, Bonnie Christie, noted that it might be helpful to the public to have comments from the Housing Committee before the public is asked to vote on zoning changes. Mr. Feller asked why the EDC was making zoning amendment recommendations and Ms. Wells noted that the EDC identified a lack of workforce housing as a key issue with businesses developing in the area.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. The focus of the meeting will be:

- Identifying three dates/locations to hold community outreach and methods/questions for outreach

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dunning made a motion to adjourn at 7:16pm, seconded by Mr. Lipoma. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Lipoma