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**HOPKINTON HOUSING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 5, 2023
APPROVED**

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Morin called the meeting of the Hopkinton Housing Committee to order at 5:35 p.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2023, in the large meeting room in the Hopkinton Town Hall.

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

Member Absent: Thomas Lipoma, Craig Dunning, Richard Steele

Staff Present: None

Others Present: Ivy Vann, via Zoom

Ms. Morin asked for a volunteer to take minutes due to Mr. Lipoma's absence. Ms. Carr volunteered to take minutes.

Ms. Morin asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes of September 18, 2023. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Amendment to reflect the correct date was corrected. The amended motion passed unanimously.

Community Outreach

The committee heard a quick overview of the first Housing Committee forum from Ivy and a written synopsis was given to committee members. The first forum was successful with approximately 45 people in attendance. It appears that residents do not realize that a Housing Committee was formed so a brief introduction about the committee will be given at the beginning of each forum and members introduced. There was a little confusion for some that the first forum did not discuss the perceived intentions of the Housing Committee to solve the housing situation in Hopkinton. The role and purpose of the committee was explained. It was noted that the date on top of the synopsis needs to be changed to September 27th.

The second forum had about 9 people in attendance. The residents that have attended the forums so far seem open minded about future housing prospects and vested in their neighbors. There's a lot of misinformation and confusion about the Housing Committee and the role the Economic Development Committee has taken with the introduction of zoning changes being discussed at the October 17th Planning Board public hearing. The zoning amendment concentrates on adding a CCOD, Commerce and Community Overlay District, to Burnham Intervale, Maple Street Exit 6 area and Hart's Corner that would allow more housing options to be built.

The Planning Board will be having the first of three public hearings for residents' input concerning the EDC proposed zoning amendments. Ms. Morin was asked to give the planning board an update of what the Housing Committee has done to date. It was agreed that Ms. Morin will not comment on the proposed amendments as the Committee is still gathering information for analysis per the directives of Phase I of the Housing Opportunity Grant.

A one-page Survey Monkey has been reviewed by the committee and approved with a few amendments. The committee voted to allow Ms. Morin and Ms. Vann to activate the survey without waiting for another committee meeting. It will be sent out through various social media outlets as another way to get community feedback. An 11 X 17" notice will be placed around town informing people to look for the survey and will have information

about where to find printed copies. It was suggested a QR code could be added that would give a direct link to the survey. Other options were discussed on how to reach various demographics that are still missing from the forums. It was discussed getting on a future PTA meeting, survey handed out at the transfer station and attend local games to get the information out. Ms. Vann and Ms. Mitchell were asked how much money is left in the contract for community outreach. It appears around \$1,800 is still available.

Another recommendation was to target local businesses to obtain information regarding their employees' living status. Questions for consideration: Do their employees live in town? How far do they travel to come to work? Does the lack of workforce housing affect the employer's ability to hire enough people?

Phase II & III Application

There is no update regarding funding for Phases II and III. Hopkinton did qualify to receive the grant award if and when funds become available.

Community Feedback

Questions continue. The Committee discussed being prepared to address concerns with supported data. This information could then be put on the Housing Committee webpage. Some of the concerns are:

- “Increasing housing equals more school aged children.” Mr. Ruderman updated the committee that the NH Housing Finance Authority is in the process of updating an earlier report regarding the impact upon schools with increased housing units. He will let the committee know when the report is completed.
- “Increasing housing increases the burden on fire and police departments.”
- “An increase in housing will put a burden on infrastructures like town water, sewer, roads and transfer station.”

Other Business

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday November 2, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. The focus of the meeting will be:

- Review Community Outreach data

ADJOURNMENT

_____ made a motion to adjourn at 7:25pm, seconded by _____. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Carr