

DRAFT MINUTES

Housing Advisory Committee

April 13, 2018

1. Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was convened at 8:45 a.m. in the Wheelwright Room of the Town Office. Present were committee members: John Mueller (Economic Development committee representative), Pete Cameron (Planning Board Representative), Nancy Belanger (Chair), Tim Roache (Rockingham County Planning Commission) and Molly Cowan (Select Board Representative). Staff attending were Russ Dean, Town Manager, Dave Sharples, Town Planner. Absent: Tony Texeira (Exeter Housing Authority). Also in attendance: Barry Sandberg.
2. The meeting started with Dave Sharples, our Town Planner providing an update on an ongoing discussion regarding future based density.

Dave also provided a handout and talked about an available grant through Plan NH-NH Municipal Technical Assistance Grant Program (MTAG) 2018-2019. The grants range from a minimum of \$5,000.00 to a maximum of \$20,000.00 with a 25% match. This grant is privately funded, not federally funded. This grant is for hiring a consultant to:

- Review current zoning and related regulations related to housing; and/or
- Re-write those regulations to permit a wider range of choices in home location, design, and/or price-point; and/or
- Write new zoning regulations to support a wider range of choices of where people can live according to their wants and needs.

The Planning Board will meet on April 26, 2018 to form and appoint a review committee that will include 3 planning board members. The following areas will be their focus: Downtown area, Portsmouth Ave. and Lincoln Street.

Rebecca Perkins, Portsmouth City Councilor, came to speak to the committee. Rebecca was instrumental in the forming of the City of Portsmouth Housing Committee a few years ago. Portsmouth Planning Board member, Jeff Kisiel also came to speak to the committee. Sarah Garstka, Executive Director of Workforce Housing Coalition also came to speak with our committee. There was a general conversation and an exchange of thoughts and ideas including NH Statutes, Zoning ordinances that promote density, mixed use potential. There was also discussion on what the next steps that could and/or should be taken (i.e. education, televised meetings, and events).

3. Next Meeting: May 11, 2018 from 8:30 to 10 am in the Nowak Room of the Town Office.
4. Adjournment: The committee adjourned at approximately 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Belanger
Chair