

Housing Advisory Committee

Meeting began at 8:30 a.m. and concluded at 9:10 am

This meeting was held via Zoom

Friday, September 11, 2020 draft meeting minutes

In attendance: Russ Dean, Town Manager; Lovey Roundtree Oliff, Select Board Representative; Dave Sharples, Town Planner; Pete Cameron, Planning Board Representative; Lindsay Sonnett and Nancy Belanger.

Also in attendance: Sarah Wrightsman, Director of Seacoast Workforce Housing and Robert Pruyne, Rockingham Planning Commission.

Absent: John Mueller and Tim Roache, Executive Director, Rockingham Planning Commission.

The Covid-19 Preamble was read

Nancy Belanger informed the committee that John Mueller had contacted her to advise the committee that his home has sold, and he would be resigning from the committee effective immediately. He had hoped to attend this meeting to resign in “person” but was unable to do so. He will send a formal resignation letter to our town manager, Russ Dean. Both Mr. Dean and Nancy Belanger thanked John for his many years of service and commitment to our Town. His knowledge and contribution over the years has been invaluable and he will be missed. John was an original member of this committee that began meeting in 2015 and is the photographer of the photos taken around town that were used to make our PowerPoint and Story Map project.

Review and approval of meeting minutes: The draft meeting minutes dated August 14, 2020 were approved, as amended.

- a. Update on Rockingham Planning Commission’s Multi-Unit Map and PowerPoint Presentation:** On August 10, 2020 a brief introduction video was presentation to the Select Board. Discussion on the next phase of rolling out the project will be a webinar. Further discussion will occur during our October 2020 through February, 2021 meetings. Our goal is to have this finalized and ready to go by March 2021.

Lindsey Sonnet provided some thoughts on how to “humanize” the project. Further discussion on this will take place at our next meeting.

As a follow up to John Mueller’s question at our last meeting about tracking visits to the story map, Robert Pruyne of RPC stated that there had been 34 and the peek of those were during the week of August 18th. By way of background, during our August 14, 2020 meeting Robert had noted that over that past week there had been 42 view and over the previous two weeks there were 52 views and the prior two weeks before that there was essentially no views. Robert agreed to provide a report every few weeks or so with an update on traffic to the map.

- b. Sarah Wrightsman agreed to talk at our October 9, 2020 meeting about her upcoming Rochester, NH presentation to their City Council about Affordable Housing and what “affordable” means.
- c. **June 22, 2017 Report to the Select Board:** Per our report and the provision that the committee will have a three-year review to evaluate where the committee stand on the recommendations listed in our 2017 report. Dave Sharples provided a memo via shared screen that listed the 10 recommendations and included a summary of where each recommendation stands. Some of the recommendations are meant to be ongoing and used as a chart forward. We now have an updated check list to work from.

Dave Sharples talked about the Rockingham Planning Commission’s regional housing needs assessment and that he anticipates an update to that data at some point. The last available data was from approximately 2016 or so. Robert Pruyne will follow up with Tim Roache on this and let us know when this may be available.

Russ Dean talked about updating the data in the 2017 Report including information on school enrollment, 2020 census when it becomes available, housing projects and Assessor Dwelling Units (ADU’s).

Robert Pruyne provided data on the current status for Rockingham County participation on the 2020 census: Exeter participation (75%) is falling behind Stratham (84%), Brentwood (81%). The overall participation rate in Rockingham County is at 72.4%. We are higher than 2010 so the lack of participation doesn’t appear to be pandemic related.

d. Old/New Business:

- New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) conference will be held virtually this fall. David Sharples has been asked to participate this year with Robin Labatt LeBlanc from Plan NH, who provided us with the MTAG Grant, to talk about the Mixed-Use Neighborhood Development (MUND) project/Exeter Housing Future.
- David Sharples updated the committee on the Gateway to Exeter project and the that will have 244 apartments of which 56 will be affordable housing apartments. This project was approved by the Planning Board on August 27, 2020.
- Darren Winham, Economic Development Director will attend our October 9, 2020 meeting to talk about Cottage/Pocket Neighborhoods.

Our next meeting will be October 9, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Belanger, Chair