

Housing Advisory Committee
Monday, December 4, 2023
The meeting was held from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Nowak Room
Draft Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Lindsay Sonnett, Chair; Nancy Belanger, Select Board Representative; Russ Dean, Town Manager; and Victoria Healy, Rockingham Planning Commission Regional Planner.

Also in attendance: Dave Sharples, Exeter Town Planner; Darren Winham, Exeter Economic Development Director; Doug Eastman, Exeter Building Inspector; Melissa Roy, Assistant Town Manager and Dan Chartrand, Select Board.

Absent: Tim Roche, Director of Rockingham Planning Commission; Pete Cameron, Planning Board Representative, and Emily Heath.

- a. The committee scheduled this additional meeting to continue 79E discussion following the November 20, 2023 Select Board meeting.
 - This committee discussed sunsetting 79E based on the language adopted in 2014 and evaluating and potentially adopting the current language.
 - There was continued discussion on whether 79E is still needed for Exeter to attract business/development (i.e. “Would they come anyways”) or whether it is still necessary for economic development and rehabilitation of our older buildings.
 - Suggestion that a moratorium on 79E be considered and recommendation for the select board to no accept any 79E applications until a task force can be established to review all aspects of 79E (current costs associated with loss tax revenue, goals, remove transferability and include provisions/incentives for “affordable housing” and ad maximum number of years for relief, etc).
 - Town Manager will discuss the feasibility with town counsel.
 - Set up a task force of town employees, Town Manager, planner, building inspector, economic developer, finance department to cull through past data and present future options that may align with the town’s goals. Suggested that they also draft guidelines for the Select Board to utilize when considering future applications.
 - It was suggested that the town manager, planner, building inspector and economic development director jointly write a memo for each applicant to be included with all applications for the Select Board to use in their deliberations.
 - 79E shows Exeter is “welcoming to businesses”
 - Consider lost tax revenue when factoring in the CIP projects to replace aging infrastructure and expand infrastructure for future needs.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Sonnett, Chair