

Housing Advisory Committee
Friday, February 9, 2024
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Nowak Room

Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Lindsay Sonnett, Chair; Nancy Belanger, Select Board Rep; Russ Dean, Town Mgr.

Also in attendance: Dave Sharples, Town Planner; Darren Winham, Economic Development Director; Doug Eastman, Building Inspector; Julie Gilman, Exeter Representative and Select Board; and Nick Taylor, Director of Seacoast Workforce Housing Coalition.

Absent: Tim Roche, Rockingham Planning Commission Director; Emily Heath; Pete Cameron, Planning Board Rep; and Victoria Healy, Rockingham Planning Commission Regional Planner.

- a. The committee discussed a potential scheduling conflict that impacts key members of the committee. The Town Manger will look at changing his meeting schedule to 10 am on Fridays to resolve the conflict.
- b. Tax Exemption: This is currently one of the items the committee has on their to-do list. After a brief discussion everyone was very supportive of the new exemptions committee recently approved by the Select Board. This new committee will look at all of our current exemptions as well as additional available and future ones. It was determined that this was the best way forward. The new committee will report on their findings periodically to the Housing Advisory Committee (possibly quarterly or semi-annually, to be determined) because we feel this is important data to be kept up to date on.
- c. Dave Sharples summarized Planning Board deliberations on two proposed zoning ordinance changes; ADU & Conversion Ordinances and the Mix Use Neighborhood Development (MUND).
- d. Nick Taylor and Julie Gilman updated the committee on current legislation on housing and zoning. There are many interesting initiatives that are at the beginning stages of being considered at both the NH House of Representatives and Senate.
- e. Goals for 2024:
 1. Consider current NH legislation that will promotes that promotes workforce housing both locally but also regionally and state-wide.
 2. Consider potential expansion of units for the Exeter Housing Authority.
 3. Consider future potential at the Cross Road property for development for affordable housing.
 4. Zoning changes to consider for 2025.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2024

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Sonnett, Chair