

Housing Task Force Committee Meeting Minutes

City Hall – City Manager’s Room

2/4/16 – combined January and February meetings into this one meeting

Convened at 5:15 PM

Attendees: Jack McCullough (member), Polly Nichol (member), Jen Hollar, Liz Genge, Laura Biren (AmeriCorps VISTA), Jo Ann Troiano (member), Morgan Brown, Zach Hughes, Beth Ann Maier, Marty Roberts, Elizabeth Parker, Amos Meacham, Kevin Casey (staff)

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Approved agenda; minutes from prior meeting need to be re-sent
- 3) Opportunity for public comment:
 - a. Housing Task Force was not on the City Calendar nor public board in City Hall. Laura/Kevin will check in on this.
- 4) Member Updates:
 - a. Kevin: Homeownership First Time Homebuyers has moved 5 of the 6 spaces! They’re younger, family oriented tenants with a commitment to the Montpelier community
 - i. Jane: asked price range?
 - ii. Kevin: responded \$167,000-\$222,000. Had asked Eileen about needs going forward: parking spaces, infrastructure...
 - b. Jo: asked what’s left in the Housing Trust Fund
 - i. Kevin: City Council Goal Setting – will make the ask on the HTF
 - ii. Polly: Kevin - send out an update to the Trust Fund Committee
 - iii. Kevin: Reconstituting the committee is important. There are 2 projects: 1) First time homebuyers and 2) Dickey Block
 - c. Jane: Report to City Council on success of Housing Trust Fund
 - d. Kevin: Economic Development Strategic Plan has a housing component
 - i. Public member: public must know about City Council meeting in reference to city council goals/housing trust fund, etc. Public will show support.
 - e. Zoning update: 2 public hearings, 1 open house. 1 public hearing and the open house have already occurred.
 - i. 2nd public hearing is scheduled for **Monday, February 8th at 5:30 PM in the City Council Chambers.**
 - ii. Changing zones for housing development and flood mitigation
 - iii. Kevin: Reminder that zoning is not a development plan. It’s showing where the maximum is allowed.
 - iv. Tiny house discussion ensued. Liz asked: What is the minimum square footage for occupancy?
 1. Public question: Does Montpelier have a % of housing that’s required to be affordable? Unison answer – “No”
 - v. Jo: Most new development has been “Affordable”
- 5) Tiny House Application at Another Way Update

- a. Due March 1st. Application is online and in paper form. Laura will bring an update back to HTF after application process in March
 - b. Public member: Asking HTF to support process and potentially update City Council on Tiny House process at Another Way
 - c. Discussion on building code requirements within Montpelier in reference to Tiny Houses: must address barriers and satisfy legitimate public health/safety
- 6) Update on Continuum of Care
- a. Liz explained definition of “homeless” (doesn’t include couch surfing, and those who did not answer COC)
 - b. Washington County is at least at last year’s rates, probably more (so more than 130 homeless)
 - c. Press release on COC expected in April
 - d. Kevin: Focus on “No Child Should Be Homeless”
 - e. Polly: Need for community conversation on what homelessness is in Montpelier
 - f. VT Interfaith Action: 8 congregations between Montpelier and Barre:
 - i. Have been researching homelessness in Montpelier/Barre for past 8 months. End of March/April will be releasing findings and will want to discuss.
 - ii. Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth = important entity in these discussions
 - g. Liz: Mentioned Barre Interfaith Group: ending homelessness focus. 99 people are on ListServ
 - h. Liz: Also counting “precariously” housed in COC
- 7) Discussion on Homelessness Forum/Community Conversation:
- a. Public member: mentioned forum on Wed Feb 17-Thurs Feb 18
Homelessnessmarathon.org
 - b. Laura: Updated HTF on discussion with Josh Davis from Brattleboro’s Groundworks Collaborative and their experience with a homelessness forum
 - c. Laura: Will get involved with Continuum of Care; Housing Review Team, through Community Action, for help, aid, outreach on homelessness forum, general inquiry
 - d. Homelessness forum collaborators:
 - i. VT Interfaith/Beth Anne Maier
 - ii. Youth Services – Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth/Kelly Walsh
 - iii. Barre/Good Samaritan
 - iv. Continuum of Care/Liz Genge
 - v. Experiencing homelessness/Morgan Brown
 - vi. Media – The Bridge, ORCA
 - vii. Zack Hughes, Community Member
 - viii. Polly, Jo – Housing Task Force Committee

Next meeting scheduled for 3rd Thursday in March: Thursday, March 17th at 5:15 PM
Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM