

Housing Task Force
Meeting Minutes
March 16th 2017: 5:15-7:00PM
City Hall: Memorial Room

Members Present: Anne Watson (MEAC) Barbara Conrey, (MEAC) Liz Genge (HTF)
Jo Troiano (HTF) Kevin Casey (HTF) Jack McCullough (HTF) Ken Jones (MEAC),
Polly Nichols (HTF) Andrew Stein (HTF), Kate Stephenson (MEAC), Rebecca Harris
(AmeriCorps)

1. Meeting called to order
2. Approve meeting minutes and agenda
3. Public comment
4. Energy Advisory Committee
 - Last week the HTF brainstormed ideas on how to raise awareness of housing issues (affordability and availability)
 - The Bridges proposal provides an opportunity for HTF and energy committees to collaborate.
 - Andrew proposed a series of forums to start a conversation about city goals for housing and energy (in relation to the design competition's envisioned conceptual plan)
 - Net Zero Vermont has a mailing list/can help with outreach.

Two scales of development:

1. Individual level development (for instance expansion into duplex)
2. Downtown development
 - One forum can focus on homeowners and zoning while another can focus on larger scale development.

Problems identified: How do we get large-scale developers to build in Montpelier?

- Cost delta
- Neighbors
- Redstone campus
- Tiff reform

Discussion on whether forums should focus specifically on downtown

- Bridges took a holistic view
- Montpelier residents are supportive of infill development
- Parts of downtown are in the flood zone.
 - Affordable housing is difficult to build in the flood plain because of the cost of flood insurance.
- Relationship between infill development and the need to address parking and transportation.

TO DO: Plan for structure of public forum. We hope to get this completed in May or June before the summer.

- Andrew will come up with a concrete plan for public meeting with help from Becca.

5. Zoning

Zoning will be addressed at city council meeting on the 22nd. Parking strategy will also be addressed. It is important that members show up and support zoning updates.

- Discussion of First time homebuyers program
 - Low supply also makes it difficult to buy a home in Montpelier. Young families are moving to surrounding towns where there are available and affordable properties.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00PM