

Montpelier Planning Commission
June 27, 2011
City Council Chambers, City Hall

Subject to Review and Approval

Present: Jesse Moorman, Chair; Alan Goldman, Tina Ruth, Jon Anderson; and Meghan Wingate, Youth Member.
Staff: Gwen Hallsmith, Director of Planning & Community Development

Comments from the Chair:

The Planning Commission will be discussing the zoning districts that are suburban and also the big undeveloped parcels that are also hooked up to water and sewer. The context for the discussion is the mandate from City Council and the Master Plan is one of the chief goals is to develop more housing in our city. What they have been doing starting with the last meeting and on through several meetings to come is taking the neighborhood zoning districts one by one and looking at a draft write-up of how an updated zoning bylaw would look like with respect to the overall zoning district. Since the Housing Task Force Members are present he would like to meet them all.

Angela Timpone, City Council representative to the Housing Task Force, said there is a new subcommittee on barriers to new housing in Montpelier. They have a deadline to report back to the Council by the end of September so they do want to start meeting.

Mr. Moorman said he understands from Jim Libby that they were to have two Planning Commission Members serve on the subcommittee as well.

Councilor Timpone said the City Council is still forming their committees and working groups for the summer.

Planning Director Hallsmith said there isn't a quorum for a meeting but they should have a discussion.

City Council Member Angela Timpone said Jim Libby wrote the charge for the subcommittee. One of the Council's top priorities is housing and barriers to new housing in Montpelier. The Council felt they should have a small working group over the summer that is really committed to looking at what are the barriers to housing. Through the process they felt they need a real commitment from the City Council to go forward and they heard that from the Housing Task Force. Council Member Nancy Sherman and she are going to be the City Council Members on the Committee on Barriers to New Housing in Montpelier. The Housing Task Force – Polly Nichol and Jack McCullough – and they are looking for two members from the Planning Commission to join them. The charge would be to identify the actual and perceived barriers to the construction of new housing in Montpelier; identify

opportunities and resources that will promote the construction of new housing; identify the challenges that exist for construction on new housing in Montpelier; research what other

small municipalities have done to promote new housing; and report back to the Council in September with next steps for the Council to take and what our recommendations are. The Council is very clear that this is a huge priority and wants to hear those next steps. They will be meeting over the summer. There will be six members and meet at least two times a month because that is only 4 or 5 times over the next few weeks.

Mr. Moorman said John Bloch has expressed an interest to serve on this and Jesse Moorman said he would also serve.

Planning Director Hallsmith said there is a lot of work but the Regional Planning Commission recently completed a fairly extensive housing study for the region.

City Councilor Timpone said they are also looking forward to Gwen and Garth Genge serving on the committee as well. There will be some work over the summer and into the fall, but they should think about the end of September as the deadline.