



Issued 1/31/22

Affordable Housing Advisory Group January 24, 2022 Draft Special Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Group Members Present: Chairs: Trisha Pitter & Mike D’Amato; Members: Matt Lyman, Robert Sitkowski, Elizabeth Sullivan, Gail Weinstein, Kyle Shiel, Kasey LaFlam, Nadia Kachwacha, Renee Lopez, Mark Garilli, Jo Cohen, Greg Kirschner, Claudia Shelton, Claire Dowd, Kevin Sullivan, Tricia Haggerty Wenz, Dave Sagers, David Sayet

Staff Present: Todd Dumais, Town Planner; Brian Pudlik, Associate Planner

2. Business Items

a. Review of AHAG Survey Results:

Mr. Dumais, provided a kick-off to the meeting and briefly reviewed the results of the AHAG survey and noted the preferred group meeting dates and times and identified the AHAG member preferences on subcommittee involvement.

b. Discussion and Review of Draft Purpose Statement

Mr. Dumais, read through the initial presentation on the draft Purpose Statement for the Group. He noted that this would be discussed, and hopefully, formalized at the February meeting. In the interim, he requested that if any members have comments or edits to provide them to staff.

c. Subcommittee Meeting Breakout Sessions

i. Community Engagement Subcommittee Mtg.

(Members: Trisha Pitter, Matt Lyman, Robert Sitkowski, Elizabeth Sullivan, Gail Weinstein)

Mr. Dumais, provided an introduction on the purpose of the group and initial objectives and along with Co-Chair Trisha Pitter, facilitated the subcommittee conversation. Subcommittee members suggested the importance of an appropriately designed messaging strategy for the engagement process. They noted that this is critical to complete before the issuance of any online survey. In addition to a survey, the subcommittee suggested perhaps local public TV, and social media might be good platforms to reach the community and partnering with groups that might help facilitate listening sessions within the community. The subcommittee would work on identifying

different strategies for messaging, appropriate survey questions and opportunities to provide an expanded definition of affordable housing.

ii. Data Collection & Analysis Subcommittee Mtg.

(Members: Kyle Shiel, Kasey LaFlam, Nadia Kachwacha, Renee Lopez, Mark Garilli, Jo Cohen, Greg Kirschner)

Mr. Pudlik, provided an introduction on the purpose of the group and initial objectives and facilitated the subcommittee conversation. Subcommittee members suggested other data sources that may be informative such as the Housing Needs Assessment Report for West Harford by Policy Map, the Data Haven 2021 Equity Profile for West Hartford and the Partnership for Strong Communities Housing Data Profile for West Hartford. Subcommittee members requested any available data on the Town's use of Community Development Block Grant funds, and building permit data on total cost of construction.

3. Communications

Mr. Dumais noted to the group that Town Manager Matt, Hart announced his resignation of Town Manager to take the position of Executive Director at CRCOG. Rick Ledwith would fill in as Acting Town Manager.

4. Staff Reports & Informational Items

Mr. Dumais, referenced the shared Google Drive account to be used to disseminate information to the group. He also asked group member to review the three PDF documents: Affordable Housing Plans for the towns of Weston and Old Saybrook and the DOH Guidebook on Affordable Housing Plans.

5. Future Agenda Items

- a. Next AHAG Meeting February 28, 2022
- b. Subcommittee reports

6. Adjournment

- The meeting(s) adjourned at 7:10pm