

MINUTES OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING

October 12, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Hybrid Meeting – In-Person / Zoom Meeting

Committee members present: Mark Sinopoli (V. Chair), Krystal Holmes (Secretary), Erin Golembiewski, Kathie Harrington, Robin Zatony

Other: Bill Hawkins, Director of Planning & Development

Absent: David Colangelo, Kevin Goff

Mark Sinopoli called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2023

Ms. Harrington made motion. Ms. Zatony seconded. Ms. Golembiewski abstained due to absence at last meeting. Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Ms. Golembiewski updated that P&Z Attorney, Mr. Landolina, is reviewing the draft Suffield Affordability Plan to confirm accuracy with current zoning regulations.

Suffield Housing Update

Mr. Hawkins provided an update on housing applications. No new applications have been received. Developer on St. Joseph property is working on preliminary plans for multifamily/apartment. A subdivision application on Remington St. was recently withdrawn.

Presentation of Committee Topics From Section 5 “Strategies” of the 2022-2027 Housing Plan

- a. Continue to Encourage Affordable Housing Within Existing Stock – presented by Ms. Holmes
 - Reviewed CHFA loan programs. Discussed potential incentives the town could offer to encourage more CHFA mortgage loans.
 - i. Reimbursing local conveyance tax (.25% of sales price) to seller, after home closing.
 - ii. Reimbursing buyer town recording fees (approx. \$500-800), after the home closing process.
 - Reviewed federal and local rental assistance programs including Rental Assistance Program (State program) and Housing Choice Voucher (Federal program). Discussed potential ways to increase rental assistance in Suffield.
 - i. Offering town subsidy to landlords who offer affordable rentals.
 - ii. Offer assessment credit to property owners who provide affordable rentals.

- iii. Create a campaign to educate landlords about rental assistance programs to increase awareness and try to increase inventory.

New Business

Mr. Hawkins presented a question he received, would the town ever consider buying property / land and holding until ready for an affordable housing project.

Ms. Zatony stated that she shared her presentation with the Social Services Committee today.

Public Comment

None

Next Regular Meeting Topics: October & November

- a. Review and Update the Zoning Regulations. - Ms. Golembiewski
- b. Get Configured to Promote of Affordable Housing - Ms. Harrington
- c. Evaluate Increasing Assisted Housing - Mr. Sinopoli

With nothing further, Ms. Holmes made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Ms. Harrington seconded. Vote in favor unanimous.

Next Meeting: November 9th at 7:00 pm at Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Krystal Holmes

Secretary