

**MINUTES OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**March, 14 2024**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Hybrid Meeting – In-Person / Zoom Meeting, Town Hall Meeting Room**

**Committee members present:** Kevin Goff (Chair), Mark Sinopoli (V. Chair), David Colangelo, Kathie Harrington, Robin Zatony

**Committee members present via Zoom:** None

**Other:** Bill Hawkins, Director of Planning & Development

**Absent:** Krystal Holmes (Secretary), Erin Golembiewski

**Kevin Goff** called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Public Comment**

Donna Barten, 1399 North Grand Street – Explained that she has had difficulty downloading the Affordable Housing Plan on the Town website. Mr. Hawkins showed Ms. Barten how to download the document from the website.

**Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2024**

Ms. Zatony made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Sinopoli seconded. Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

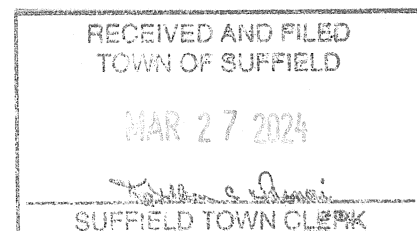
Mr. Goff mentioned he has been following the legislature during the short session for housing issues. He mentioned Senate Bill 6 is an omnibus bill that contains a lot of information from a number of committees on housing issues. He described a couple bills that are still in the housing committee about rental contracts, and out of state investors.

**Suffield Housing Update**

Mr. Hawkins provided an update on current housing applications. Briarwood Homes is no longer looking at a parcel on Mapleton Avenue for potential subdivision of market rate homes due to the amount of wetlands found on the parcel. He mentioned the owner of the St. Joseph's church and adjacent property will be filing a lot split and lot line revision plan but no application for development has been submitted. Mr. Hawkins also discussed the property located off Limric Lane and that the developer has discussed the possibility of a text amendment to the Zoning Regulations that would allow an affordable housing project on the property.

**Status and progress of Suffield Affordability Plan**

This discussion was tabled to the April regular meeting.



### **Discussion of possible recommendations from AHC to BOS**

Mr. Goff presented possible recommendation list from the committee to the BOS. The list was put into a form of a survey and each committee member rendered a vote of yes, no, or maybe. The list was categorized in to "yes" responses that had five or more responses out of eight total votes, same on the "no's" and to discuss the "maybes". The goal was to pare down the list to find out where members stand on affordable housing individually and as a committee. Discussion took place on what the term "High Density" means, what would be acceptable for density in Suffield, and how best to encourage a variety in housing types.

Further discussion took place regarding the 16 possible recommendations where more than five members voted "yes". Topics included extending the life of the affordable housing committee, adopting an affordability plan, the housing authority, utility extensions, and guiding the location of housing. The three possible recommendations where there was five or more "no" votes were also discussed. It was decided to table the discussion on the 18 possible recommendations that were voted as a "maybe" to the April regular meeting.

### **New Business**

For information purposes, Mr. Goff mentioned the Facility Master Plan is being reviewed by the Permanent Building Commission and they will come up with recommendations on how to support the plan.

### **Public Comment**

Donna Barten, 1399 North Grand Street stated that she attended the meeting tonight to learn more about affordable housing in town. She offered her opinion that there is a need for more affordable housing in Suffield and she would like to learn more about what the committee has been working on for the last year.

With nothing further, Ms. Harrington made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 PM. Mr. Sinopoli seconded. Vote in favor unanimous.

Next Meeting: April 11, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hawkins

Acting Secretary