

**Minutes of the Norwich Affordable Housing Sub-committee Meeting
held via zoom on April 17, 2023 @ 6:00PM**

Subcommittee members attending: Gordon Greenfield, Brian Loeb, Jeff Lubell, Paul Manganiello, and Creigh Moffatt

Invited members of the public: Jennie Anderson, Chipper Ashley, Mitch Beck, Paul Elkind, Jonathan Hauze, Jan Hutslar, Geof Smith, and Penny Wright. These individuals include representatives of the Norwich Congregational Church, St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley, and the Upper Valley Jewish Community as well as an individual connected to the Hanover Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda moved, seconded, and approved 5-0.

Minutes. Motion to approve the minutes of the 3/27/23 meeting moved, seconded and approved 5-0.

The meeting focused on exploring the possibilities of engaging an interfaith coalition to support affordable housing in Norwich. The conversation began with comments by subcommittee members that included discussion of the importance of affordable housing and the barriers we have faced relative to the cost of land, lack of a sewer system, and zoning.

The conversation next turned to comments by invited guests. One of the invited guests opined that scattered site projects that include units dispersed across multiple locations may experience less opposition than very large projects in a single location. Another asked whether the town could tap into any of the new state funding sources for affordable housing. One guest expressed an interest in seeing group homes, housing for those with disabilities, and transitional housing in Norwich.

Rev. Jan Hutslar noted that the Unitarian Universalist Church has been trying to help individuals in need of shelter but experienced challenges related to Norwich's regulations.

Discussion in the meeting underscored the different ways that faith communities could work together to support affordable housing in Norwich, including by sponsoring joint educational forums.

Adjourned at 7:34PM moved, seconded and passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted: Paul Manganiello

Approved May 15, 2023