

Town of Norwich  
Affordable Housing Sub-committee

Draft Minutes April 20, 2020

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Location: Act 92 compliant virtual Open Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Ralph Hybels (Chair), Kathleen Shepherd, Paul Manganiello, Jeff Lubell, Brian Loeb

Public: Jaci Allen, Andrew Winter, Reeve Williams

Staff: Rod Francis

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1. Meeting Called to Order: 5:15pm

2. Open Meeting Law under Act 92 (Francis)

Key points of Act 92 in effect now. Specifically:

- meetings no longer have to be held in a public place
- physical public access to a location with an established link to an otherwise virtual meeting is no longer required
- hard copy warnings are now only being posted in 2 physical locations
  - Noticeboard in front of Tracy Hall
  - Post Office lobby
- There is an extra day provided for posting draft minutes

3. Elect Office Holders (Hybels)

Manganiello moved and Lubell seconded a motion to table officer appointments until the next meeting. Motion carried 5 – 0.

4. Update on 2020 Town Plan (adoption and approval) (Francis)

Francis confirmed that the 2020 town plan was adopted by the Selectboard March 7, 2020 and that the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) will consider the plan for approval at their regular meeting April 22, 2020.

5. Implementing 2020 Town Plan (Lubell/Loeb)

Lubell referenced the Housing Strategy which is an appendix to the plan (but not currently posted on the website – this will be rectified soon).

In light of the as-yet unknown impacts of covid-19 on housing policy and the community more generally it is necessary to revisit what parts of the strategy should be worked on immediately.

Points covered included:

- Need to develop a marketing campaign around affordable housing
  - Provide input to the rewrite of land use regulations
  - Ensure that the \$45,000 affordable housing fund is moved to the Vermont Community Foundation for management and that a campaign to attract private funds is developed
  - More analysis of how a lack of affordable housing may impact household taxes
- Members agreed to place Housing Strategy work on upcoming agendas

6. Keys to the Valley (tri-RPC housing study)

In response to a question Francis confirmed that the survey was on-line only. He will resend an email invite to the survey to Subcommittee members.

7. Meeting Adjourned: 6:17pm