Norwich Affordable Housing Subcommittee Meeting Monday September 18th, 2023 Minutes

The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Jeff Lubell, Creigh Moffatt, Brian Loeb, Paul Manganiello

Members of the Public: Marsha Price, Joseph Ciambra and Maria, Arline Rotman, and Jonathan Hauze.

1. The Agenda was approved: 4 in favor, 0 against.

2. The Minutes of 8.14.23 were approved: 3 in favor, 1 abstention (Moffatt), 0 against.

3. Introductions among members of the Committee and members of the Public were made.

4. Discussion ensued about ways to inform Norwich residents about the need for affordable housing, what the subcommittee is doing to promote affordable housing, how to engage members of the public and ways others could support the work of the committee.

The discussion noted that the Subcommittee has been addressing Norwich's need for affordable housing by pursuing a number of potential affordable housing projects on town-owned land and other locations, educating homeowners about the possibility of creating accessory dwellings units, and seeking donations of land. The subcommittee discussed different ways to share information about affordable housing with Norwich residents. The subcommittee discussed offering or co-sponsoring events with partners in the faith community. One idea that surfaced was to shine attention on the need for affordable housing at an upcoming interfaith service before Thanksgiving. Another was to make a presentation on affordable housing at the St. Francis of Assisi church. One individual discussed the need for a regional approach from the core upper valley towns working together. Another emphasized the importance of engaging children on affordable housing through school activities. At the next meeting, a program of educational events to follow the Thanksgiving service will be discussed and confirmed.

5. Brian updated the Subcommittee about the application for a VCDP Planning Grant to develop below-market rate housing on New Boston Road. The Two Rivers - Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission is assisting Norwich with the application. A draft will be available for review at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:40 PM

Next meeting October 16th @ 6:30 PM

Submitted: Creigh Moffatt APPROVED 11-20-2023