

HPP Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

MEETING: January 26, 2021 @ 7:00PM

Attendees Present: Sarah Rhatigan, Chair (AHT), Alice Benson (COA), Chris Chandor (at-large), Alicia Primer (PB), Jenn Goldson, Liz Valenta, Barry Frenkin, Imai Aiu, Diana Chaplin, Lise Rivers

1. Public Comment
 - a. Diana Chaplin asked about the requirements for an HPP.
2. Project Updates—Sarah and Jenn
 - a. Liz is drafting a statement for the Annual Report which is due 2/28. It will be distributed to the Committee for review.
 - b. The community webinar is now scheduled for March 4th.
 - c. Committee meetings are 2/8 and 2/22.
 - d. Once the Committee finalizes a draft HPP, post community webinar, the Planning Board and Board of Select Persons will need to approve it before it is submitted to the state.
 - e. Committee agreed we want to develop the best strategy for Weston, not just the minimal requirements.
 - f. Jenn—DHCD regulations for HPPs are not explicitly prescriptive.
3. Review of Draft Housing Production Plan Strategies
 - a. Discussion Topics—Intent for discussion is to review draft strategies to present during the webinar for feedback. This is not what necessarily will be in the final plan.
 - i. Reviewed #3 on smart growth. Not required but will be viewed favorably by state.
 - ii. #2 Promote Welcoming a Diverse Community. Not required but meets intent of the law.
 - b. Section C—Capacity, Education and Coordination. Section focuses on implementing the plan. Existing capacity vs. ideal to implement.
 - i. Resident Buzzy Price and Committee members agreed a collective meeting of interested groups would be invaluable. It was recommended that a single entity on-going, would be bring different groups and efforts together and focus on efforts. Agreement this is a missing piece in Weston.
 - ii. Jenn suggested CHAPA can help get initiatives underway. They'll provide guidance.
 - iii. Agreed on forming a Housing Community Discussion with interested groups including Affordable Housing Trust, COA Housing, Elderly Housing, WCH Do Housing group, Merriam Village.
 - iv. Potentially increase hours of RHSO Housing Coordinator role. Although recognized financial constraints, agreed this should be in the aspirations.
 - v. Section on CPA on-going funding: Agreed to continue to seek public private partnerships. Agreed to leave in this section on funding.
 - vi. Add specific sites to HPP. Some potential examples include Sunrise, Liberty Mutual, Norembaga, DOT trucking site.
 - c. Reviewed Planning, Policies and Zoning section.
 - i. Keep in some advocacy for variety of housing including types and affordability is a subset of this effort.
 - ii. All Committee members and particularly Alicia Primer as Chair of the Planning Committee, will review this section and the entire draft in more detail.
 - iii. Further discussion during February 8th meeting.
 - iv. Barry will prepare a Weston map for further site discussion at the Feb 8th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Alice Benson