

## **APPROVED 1/10/2022**

### **TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **MINUTES FROM SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021 AT 6:00 PM**

#### **IN PERSON IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF THE NORTH HAVEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 17 ELM ST. AND VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL**

*Meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Jennifer Coppola, counsel to the Committee.*

- Atty Coppola reminded the Committee to state their names before speaking and indicated that she would post the audio recordings for the Committee meetings on the Town website.
- Atty Coppola indicated that all meetings will be offered in hybrid format and that future meetings will offer videoconference and conference call options
- Future meetings will be held by zoom or in the Library Community Room. The Committee's next meeting dates are: Dec 27, Jan 10, Jan 19, Jan 31

*I. Pledge of Allegiance*

*II. Roll Call*

- A roll call was taken by Atty Coppola.
  - Goldie Adele (present, remote)
  - Ray Andrewsen (present)
  - Lynn Fredricksen (resigned)
  - Alden Mead, (present)
  - Steven Miller (present)
  - David Monz (Chair, present)
  - William Richards (present)
  - Christine Reardon (present)
  - Roderick Williams (Vice Chair, excused)
  - Marvin Wilson (excused)
  - Bethany Zemba (Secretary, present, taking minutes)
  - Richard LoPresti (present, remote)

*III. Approval of the minutes*

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Christine Reardon; second: Alden Mead.

*IV. Review of Draft Housing Survey (an overview of the survey was led by Atty Coppola)*

- General information:
  - Atty Coppola drafted a 22-question survey. She included key housing questions, an educational component and demographics at the end.

- Atty Coppola noted that she was conscious of using understandable terminology and kept the language as simple as possible.
- North Haven and Regional survey results were provided as hard copies to the taskforce. 115 residents out of 24,000 residents participated from the SCRCOG survey. Our goal is to get ~25% of North Haven residents to fill the newly developed survey out.
- Overview
  - The survey will start with an introduction and explanation of why this taskforce on affordable housing was convened, who is on the committee, and how it was appointed.
  - It will identify the opportunities and importance of participation in survey.
  - The webpage link with information on the goals and process will be shared. Not everyone is tech savvy and can't always find information on the website. It is important to provide a description of where to find the information.
  - Town residents are encouraged to send in information via email if they aren't comfortable attending in person.
- Survey Questions
  - We will follow Branford's survey model, which helped people take stock of their own housing history by checking all the types of housing they have lived in. People have experienced a diversity of housing and might not remember it right away. This helps to remind them.
  - Atty Coppola added questions about who is in the household – for example: multiple generations? children in school? starting a family? taking care of a parent because of an illness? This will allow people to reflect all sorts of circumstances.
  - Information on what money buys you in North Haven, ie., the costs of homes in North Haven.
  - Demographic questions have been included at the end of the survey.
- Timing and distribution of the survey
  - The timing of when the survey is sent out will be important. We will likely send it out with a note from Mike Freda and he will make it part of his selectman's overview. We will also do a press release.
  - The survey will be distributed electronically and then also as a hard copy in key places in town such as the senior center, the library, etc.
  - The committee will need to do the analysis of the survey ourselves. The hand-written responses will need to be recorded.
  - North Haven is partnered with member municipalities which are Hamden, New Haven, and Wallingford for upcoming meeting with SCRCOG and consultant RKG. It was discussed that North Haven is different from these towns/cities economically, governmentally/structurally and by its population size. Atty Coppola will find out what it means to be partnered with a member municipality and if we are grouped with the right towns/cities.
  - Atty Coppola will provide the Board of Selectmen with a binder of information, so they are well-prepped. Mike Freda and the other Selectmen are well-versed in this area.
  - Email any additional comments or questions regarding the survey to Atty Coppola.

V. Additional Information Gathering

- Committee discussed inviting a list of individuals to interact with the committee.
- It was noted that currently the town does not have an affordable housing regulation.

- People aging in place and continuing care in home plus people living longer – doesn't free up housing for people to move into.
- The taskforce determined an outreach plan to invite key individuals to be part of this important conversation.
- Dates were selected for future meetings.

VI. Committee Page on Town Website

- Some information will be added to the Committee's page on the Town website.

VII. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 8:00 pm (motion: Ray Andrewsen second: Alden Mead) and all were in favor (9-0).