

Selectboard & Planning Board  
Housing Sub-Committee

DATE: September 18, 2019

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Small Meeting Room, Town Hall  
334 Main St.  
Gt. Barrington, MA

FOR: Kickoff Meeting

PRESENT: Kate Burke, Bill Cooke, Jonathan Hankin, Pedro Pachano

Approved!  
20 Nov 2019  
by Pedro Pachano  
Housing Sub-Committee

Ms. Burke called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Organization: It was agreed that Kate Burke would serve as chair of the Committee

Sub Committee's Mandate: It was agreed that the task of the committee would be to explore a variety of strategies to address housing affordability in Great Barrington for the production of housing meeting a range of incomes (50% to 120% of Area Median Income). Other items which will be explored:

- Avenues of funding
- Possibilities of partnering with Mass Works with site development for affordable projects.
- Establishing a Room and Board tax for short-term rentals which would contribute to a housing fund.
- Creating Housing incentives such as tax abatements and grants for citizens participation in housing production.
- Establishing the Affordable Housing Trust Fund as enforcement authority for affordable housing incentives.

Housing Study: The Planning Board is currently seeking CPA funding for a housing study. Jonathan expressed his skepticism that such a study would reveal any useful information and that it would be a waste of CPA funds. The others in the Sub-Committee agreed that it would be a useful tool if not for the purposes of this Sub-Committee, town planning in general.

Quality Housing Standards: It was discussed that a housing standards could be coupled with any housing produced from the efforts of the Sub-Committee or projects receiving CPA money. The Sub-Committee will continue to discuss the viability and necessity of such a standard.

Open Space/Development: the Sub-Committee agreed the importance of create a balanced approach to housing production with regards to open space. To be further explored and discussed.

SB/PB Goals: It was agreed that for the next meeting the SB representatives will have examples of fiscal policy and the PB will have examples of land use policy which could potentially be coupled together to create housing policy.

Meeting: It was agreed that the Sub-Committee would meet again on 1 October, 11 AM at Town Hall.

Ms. Burke adjourned without objections at 10:12 A.M.