

Selectboard & Planning Board Housing Subcommittee Meeting via Zoom
Thursday May 30, 2023

Approved

1. CALL TO ORDER HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING – Chairperson Leigh Davis called to order the Selectboard and Planning Board Housing Subcommittee meeting at 5:30 pm. All members present endorsed Ms. Davis to act as interim chair for the reorganization of the Subcommittee.
2. ROLL CALL - Leigh Davis, “present,” Malcolm Fick, “present,” Jeremy Higa, “present,” Garfield Reed, “present.”
3. Reorganization of Subcommittee
 - a. Mr. Reed nominated Ms. Davis for Chair. Mr. Fick seconded. All voted affirmative.
 - b. Mr. Higa nominated Mr. Fick for Vice-Chair. Mr. Reed seconded. All voted affirmative.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The review and approval of the April 25, 2023 minutes was deferred until the next meeting.
5. SUBCOMMITTEE’S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS
 - a. Mr. Fick that the Planning Board and Selectboard are planning a joint meeting, likely to be held on July 24. The purpose, in part, will be to discuss the work of this Subcommittee and its continuing charter.
 - b. Mr. Higa said that the Planning Board discussed holding community-wide meetings to discuss the issues surrounding housing in the Town. This could dovetail with the symposium task in the action spreadsheet.
 - c. Mr. Reed asked if this would include consideration of affordable housing. Mr. Higa said that this would be a primary purpose.
 - d. Ms. Davis reported that Ross Vivori would be presenting his findings regarding the proposed local transfer tax to the Selectboard on June 12.
 - e. Ms. Davis asked about details of Article 35, the zoning bylaw change recently passed at Town Meeting. Mr. Fick said that the bylaw allows by-right development of multi-family housing if it includes at least 10% affordable housing for a minimum of twenty years. Mr. Higa said that the bylaw applies to the B-2 zone, which includes Stockbridge Road and portions of South Main Street.
 - f. Mr. Reed expressed surprise and disappointment that Article 39, allowing renters to offer short-term rentals, passed Town Meeting by two votes. Mr. Higa and Mr. Fick expressed support for the bylaw change. Ms. Davis expressed concern for conflicts within the bylaw that may have created with the approved change.
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Continuation of Housing Worksheet discussion
 - Mr. Fick said he would continue to work on the leadership summary.
 - Ms. Davis annotated the worksheet to indicate initiatives that have been completed.
 - Ms. Davis led a discussion to identify short-term actions and created a new column to note the discussion. Ms. Davis highlighted items that were discussed.

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7. Next meeting date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 5:30 pm
8. Citizens Speak
 - a. Ms. Vivian Orlowski asked if the Senior Tax Deferral was established on a fiscal year basis.
9. Subcommittee's Time: Members had no further comments.
10. Media Time: No media members requested time.
11. Adjournment: Mr. Reed moved to adjourn. Mr. Fick seconded. All voted yes. Ms. Davis adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm Fick, Vice Chairperson