

Selectboard & Planning Board Housing Subcommittee Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Approved

1. CALL TO ORDER HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING – Chairperson Leigh Davis called to order the Selectboard and Planning Board Housing Subcommittee meeting at 11:04 am.
2. ROLL CALL - Leigh Davis, “present,” Malcolm Fick, “present”, Garfield Reed, “present.” Members not present: Jeremy Higa
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Fick moved to approve the draft minutes of December 6, 2022. Mr. Reed seconded, and all voted to approve.
4. SUBCOMMITTEE’S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS
None
5. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Review of draft response to OML complaint
 - i. Ms. Davis presented her response to an open meeting law complaint filed by former committee member Jonathan Hankin. In his complaint, Mr. Hankin stated that the minutes of September 20 did not accurately reflect the discussion of the issue that he had raised concerning short-term rentals and long-term renters.
 - ii. Mr. Fick pointed out that, as Mr. Hankin stated in his complaint, the minutes did reflect that, after a discussion where Ms. Davis and Mr. Reed expressed disagreement with Mr. Fick and Mr. Hankin on the issue, it was agreed that the issue would be retained on the worksheet of possible initiatives. Mr. Fick further explained that when he writes the minutes, he does not attempt to report verbatim.
 - iii. Ms. Davis reviewed the response letter, which quotes the Open Meeting Law Guide that “While the minutes must include a summary of the discussions on each subject, a transcript is not required,” and lists required elements of meeting notes which were all included in the September 20 minutes.
 - iv. Mr. Reed moved to approve the response letter. Mr. Fick seconded, and all voted yes.
 - b. Continuation of discussion of Great Barrington Housing Plan Worksheet –
All the members present stated that, for various reasons, they needed to prepare for further discussion of the worksheet. Also, in Mr. Higa's absence, it was agreed to have a meeting within the next two weeks to advance the worksheet discussion.
6. NEXT MEETING DATES –Tuesday, January 24 at 5:30 pm.
1. CITIZENS SPEAK TIME
 - a. Ms. Vivian Orlowski spoke on two issues.
 - i. Regarding senior property tax deferrals, she is exploring the possibility that the income threshold and the interest rate discourage seniors from applying to the

existing program. She reported that only one senior had taken advantage of the program. Ms. Orlowski will be investigating what other towns may be doing for income thresholds and interest rates.

- ii. Ms. Orlowski also expressed interest in the issue of workforce housing for agricultural and food service employees. She said that from farm to table, the essential workers responsible for our food are among the lowest-paid workers and the ones most in need of affordable housing. She expressed interest in exploring this need further. It was agreed that this issue should be included in a future agenda for further discussion.

- 2. SUBCOMMITTEE'S TIME – No members requested to speak.
- 3. MEDIA TIME – No media members requested to speak at this time
- 4. ADJOURNMENT – M. Fick made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. All voting yes, Chairperson Davis adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm Fick, Vice Chairperson