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.
      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