

Hartford Planning Commission/Town Plan Steering Committee Meeting
Town Plan Housing Chapter Update
Homes for Hartford Community Discussion #1
Approved Minutes
February 28, 2023

A remote (zoom) community discussion was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Planning Commission & Town Plan Steering Committee Members:

John Reid	Planning Commission
Bruce Riddle	Planning Commission
Toby Dayman	Planning Commission
John Heath	Planning Commission
Colin Butler	Planning Commission
John Haffner	Vital Communities
Beth Long	Twin Pines Housing Trust
PJ Skehan	Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce
Miriam Wood	Hartford Committee on Racial Equality & Inclusion

Staff:

Lori Hirshfield	Director, Department of Planning and Development
Matt Osborn	Town Planner, Department of Planning and Development
Kevin Geiger	Director of Planning, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
Kyle Katz	Planner, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission

Others Present: There were approximately 33 other participants in the meeting.

- 1. Welcome & General Introduction to the Update of Hartford's Town Plan Housing Chapter:** Hartford Planning and Development Director Lori Hirshfield welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced staff from the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission and the Town. Hartford Planner Matt Osborn gave an overview of the Town Plan and background information. He explained that this project is funded by a Vermont Municipal Planning Grant. Like other Town Plan updates, an ad hoc Town Plan Steering Committee was formed to advise the Planning Commission.
- 2. Data Presentation:** Planner Kyle Katz of the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission proceeded with a presentation of data.
- 3. Internal Exercise:** Planning Coordinator Kevin Geiger of the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission asked participants to take a few minutes to think about trends in each person's life related to housing.
- 4. Breakout Groups:** John Haffner, Housing and Transportation Program Manager of Vital Communities went over the instructions for the three breakout groups.
 - a. Housing Availability
 - b. Housing Type

c. Housing Affordability

5. **Breakout Group Reports Back to the Large Group:** Facilitators Lori Hirshfield, Kevin Geiger and Kyle Katz gave brief reports of the breakout group sessions.
6. **Final Remarks:** Kevin Geiger made some final remarks about the impact of high housing costs on the local economy
7. **Next Community Discussion:** Lori Hirshfield stated that the second community discussion will take place in April and cover goals and strategies.
8. **Adjournment:** Lori thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.