

**Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
Organizational Meeting  
Friday, March 23, 2023, 6:00 PM  
Hartford Town Hall, Room Sandi Mariotti2  
171 Bridge Street, WRJ**

**The meeting also was available remotely.**

**Attendance:** Committee Members John Haffner (Chair), Patrick Danaher (Vice-Chair), Alex Belenz (arrived at 7:10), Dan Nott, and Ally Tufenkjian; Lori Hirshfield (staff); Heidi Duto (public), Sandi Mariotti (public), Michael Redman (public) and Cathy Melocik (public)

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

John Haffner called the meeting to order and read the information regarding the meeting being held in person and remotely.

**2. Review Order of Agenda**

Dan Nott made a motion to accept the agenda as presented and Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Approve February 17, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes**

Patrick Danaher made a motion to approve the draft Minutes as present and Dan Nott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Adopt 2023 Meeting Schedule –3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Every Month, 6:00 PM**

Patrick Danaher made a motion to approve the detailed schedule as present and Dan Nott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Town Plan Housing Chapter Ad Hoc Steering Committee (a Subcommittee of the Planning Commission)**

- Choose a HCHH Representative to the Steering Committee  
Lori Hirshfield and John Haffner gave an overview of the Ad Hoc Committee's role in the update of the Town Plan Housing Chapter and other Town Committee's and organizations involved in housing also on the Ad Hoc Committee. It was suggested that there be a primary and an alternate representative. It was noted that Alex Belenz expressed his interest in being the representative at the Committee's March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. No one else expressed an interest in being a representative. John made a motion to approve Alex as the representative, and Patrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Debrief 2/28/2023 Community Meeting: John Haffner stated the meeting was well attended (45 + attendees) and very good overview of housing data. There were three separate facilitated break-out discussion groups: availability, type and affordability. Lori Hirshfield noted that the meeting minutes and notes from the break-out group discussions were on the

Town Website under “Homes for Hartford” link on the Planning and Development Department front page. The Committee had a brief discussion about the issues identified, data presented and depth of awareness of the meeting participant of issues and possible solutions.

## **6. Refine HCHH Workplan for Coming Months**

John Haffner stated that this was the time to continue the conversation from the February meeting in identifying key housing areas to focus on in FY2023. Dan Nott referenced the homework item to review past documents such as the 2020 report from the Town’s Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness. He then asked what the status was on the report’s recommendations. Ally Tufenkjian talked about a spin-off initiative – the Ad Hoc Committee on Emergency Shelter. She noted that this committee focused on shelter for individuals living outdoors and looked into establishing a campground as a temporary option. She added that for various reasons including accessibility to public transit, services and amenities, this option did not go further.

Michael Redman spoke about other recommendations in the report regarding increasing services to connect unhoused persons and families with support services, housing/shelter opportunities which are being implemented. He also noted recommendations related to increasing housing production which include housing projects now underway, and zoning changes that increase opportunities for housing.

The Housing Committee members then discussed outreach to different towns to learn more about what they are observing and doing locally and regionally. The Committee concluded to extend invitations to the various towns to meet with them at various times. There also was discussion about different housing initiatives already going on in Town government and within organizations serving Hartford, and policy and process. The Committee concluded that it would be helpful to have a place where this information can be housed on the Town Website.

Lori agreed to consolidate the Committees discussions into a working document for further discussion on the Committee’s work program at the April Meeting.

## **7. News from Committee Members**

None was provided.

## **8. Adjourn Meeting**

John Haffner made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Dan Nott. The motion was approved unanimously.