

# **Hartford Ad-Hoc Committee on Emergency Shelter**

04/01/21 Meeting Minutes - 5:00 PM

**Committee Attendance:** Simon Dennis, Becca White, Tom Peltier, Ally Tufenkjian, Jon Chaffee, Bryan Luikart.

Community Attendance: Martha Hafner

**Becca White called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.**

**Ally Moved to table the passage of the minutes of 3/18/21. Simon seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Simon agreed to review these minutes and resubmit these to the committee.**

Becca reported about the email she sent to Bruce Riddle, the Chair of the Planning Commission. She reported that Bruce had responded via email by outlining the path for making a Zoning Regulation Amendment. It is an involve a letter of request to the Planning Commission.

Jon said that he felt that a single RV would be a good idea if it was painted in a distinctive way. It could be a badge of honor for those who host a facility. He mentioned progress in Middlebury in this regard.

Jon Chaffee reported that Simon had presented to the Planning Commission a rough sketch plan for a Planned Development. The question was whether the sketch could be categorized as a Planned Development. The Commissioners asked a bunch of questions. And seemed to be disposed towards allowing it to happen. There was not a great deal of negative feedback. He said that there were technical questions about whether fire suppression would be triggered. That was left with Jo-Ann Ells to sort that out.

Simon mentioned that Fire Marshal, Tom Peltier would be brought into the conversation by Jo-Ann Ells on the question of what fire suppression would be required. Tom mentioned that the process that we would need to go through is to have a Design Professional issue a design regarding fire suppression. Tom stated that his job was to ensure that construction conformed to codes. He has been in discussion with NFPA, all parties are in dialogue about Code analysis. He said that it would be classified as a single family home. He mentioned affordable technology such as a chemical canister-type system that this team's engineering consultant would need to endorse.

## **Site Review**

Simon reported that 100 Arboretum Ln is probably not going to work out based on resistance from the Aquatic Center Board. The parcel on Christian Street is looking more favorable. Next steps will involve a plan prepared by professional engineer to be submitted to the Planning Commission.

## **Sub-Committee Reorganization**

- 1. Micro-Housing Development**
- 2. Pairing people with homes to accommodate a single unit.**

This group would be working with the Planning Commission. ADUs. Some progress in Boston and LA.

- 3. Three-Unit RV Cluster**

The Randolph RECC Group has been making a concerted effort to approach the land owners and Churches in the area. They posted to Front Porch Forum to reach out for this sort of thing. Martha would be surprised if someone steps forward.

## **Becca asked if there are alternative models that we feel most excited about?**

Affordable housing. Bryan said that we suspect we are going to have people camping en mass. We know that the campers are happier and safer in a micro-dwelling than they are in a tent. People are going to find a spot. It seems that it is almost insurmountable to have a permitted campground. Perhaps we can work with enforcement to tolerate this sort of solution. He said that we are coming up against laws that are not designed with this situation in mind.

Becca recommended that municipal committees may have less flexibility than other sorts of groups. We have a long history of responding to poverty with Govt-sanctioned activities that are not helpful.

Martha mentioned the old dormitory-style unit, YMCA, that could involve an approach.

- 1. Micro-Dwelling Development:** Jon, Bryan, Simon, and Ally volunteered to advance this effort.
- 2. EAD (Experimental Alternative Dwelling)** Jon, Martha, Simon, Bryan offered to support this effort. Jon offered to Chair. Simon advocated for constructing a demo-unit. Jon said that St Paul would be open to supporting this.

3. **Three-Unit RV Cluster** Becca and Simon said that they would follow up with Bruce Riddle to advance this effort.

Our next meeting will be on April 15th at 5:00 PM. Please use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81522347053>

**Jon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:17. Bryan seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

Submitted by Simon Dennis, Committee Secretary