

**Hartford Planning Commission/Town Plan Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Town Plan Housing Chapter Update**  
**Homes for Hartford Community Discussion #2**  
**Draft Minutes**  
**April 13, 2023**

A community discussion was held at the Bugbee Senior Center on Thursday, April 13, 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
Dillon Bianchi	Planning Commission
John Heath	Planning Commission
Colin Butler	Planning Commission
Andrew Winter	Twin Pines Housing Trust
John Haffner	Vital Communities
Jesse Pollard	Energy Commission
Steve Lagasse	Zoning Board of Adjustment
Ally Tufenkjian	Selectboard
PJ Skehan	Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce

**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:** Lynn Bohi, Becky Chollet, Meg Culp, Chico Eastridge, Jen Kravitz, Carol Lane, Sally Mansur, Cathy Melocik, Michael Redmond, and Jonathan Rugg. Since not everyone signed the attendance list, there may have been a few participants who aren't included.

- 1. Word Wall Exercise:** As folks entered the building, they were asked to participate in a Word Wall exercise with three short responses to the question "When we say "we need more housing", what does that mean to you?" (See attached results of the Word Wall)
- 2. Welcome & General Introduction to the Update of Hartford's Town Plan Housing Chapter:** Hartford Planning and Development Director Lori Hirshfield welcomed everyone to the evening discussion on housing. She noted that Hartford, the region and much of the country is experiencing a serious housing crisis. Lori noted that Hartford is currently updating the Housing Chapter of the Town Plan. She stated that like other Town Plan updates, an ad hoc Town Plan Steering Committee was formed to advise the Planning Commission and staff on the update. Lori explained that the phrase "Homes for Hartford" was chosen because where someone lives is more than housing or housing unit. Introductions were made. Lori explained that this project is funded in part by a Vermont Municipal

Planning Grant. She introduced Planning Manager Kevin Geiger of the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission. Kevin proceeded to discuss many of the challenges facing Hartford and the Upper Valley because of the housing shortage.

3. **Breakout Groups:** There were two breakout groups to review two housing goals that came out of the 2019 Town Plan update, the work of current Town Plan Steering Committee, and the First Community discussion on February 28, 2023:
  - I. Diverse, quality, and affordable housing is available for all.
  - II. Build housing that meets the needs of the community and facilitates neighborhoods.
4. **Breakout Group Reports Back to the Large Group:** Facilitators Lori Hirshfield and Kevin Geiger gave brief reports of the breakout group sessions.
5. **Final Remarks:** Lori Hirshfield made some final remarks. She also noted that the Town is working with Junction Arts & Media on a multimedia booth that provides multiple methods for residents to provide input for the Homes for Hartford project.
6. **Next Community Discussion:** Lori Hirshfield stated that the third community discussion will take place in mid-June and will focus on strategies and actions.
7. **Adjournment:** Lori thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She also thanked Chico Eastridge of JAM (Junction Arts and Media, formerly CATV) for recording the discussion. The community discussion was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

# What does "Homes for Hartford" mean to you?

