

Hartford Ad-Hoc Committee on Emergency Shelter

5/19/22 - Meeting Minutes - 5:00 PM

Committee Members present: Bryan Luikart (Chair), Ally Tufenkjian (Vice-chair), Simon Dennis (Secretary), Tom Peletier, Scott Sablan,

Community Attendance: Heidi Duto, Lani Collins, Geri Williams, Deb Winslow, Miriam Wood, Marie

Bryan called the meeting to order at 5:04 and reviewed the agenda.

Ally moved passage of the HADCES Minutes of

Regional Collaboration

Bryan presented on the subject of regional collaboration and read a letter from Hanover Town Manager, Julia Griffin into the record. That email is attached. In a nutshell, they have compassion and resources, but have some obstacles. No discussion followed.

Bryan read a letter from Shawn Mulholland on the same subject. It was noted that Lebanon is heavily involved in this work. Discussion followed.

Ally met with Devin Wilkie, Lebanon's City Councilor, Selectboard Member Kim Souza, and two Program Managers from Vital Communities to discuss how to form a Core 4 Towns Regional Housing Coalition. Outreach is continuing and she will keep people informed as this develops.

HADCES should be prepared to discuss updates on its RV policy work for the Selectboard May 31st agenda before its charge concludes in June. A discussion on a standing committee on affordable housing and homelessness has not yet been scheduled.

Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Ally noted that the Charge for the Continuation of HADCES had been tentatively scheduled for June 31st, but that it had been hard to find time for this discussion yet.

General Discussion on the Low Barrier Shelter Project

Deb Winslow mentioned that she felt that it would be better if Hartford looked for a location for a low barrier shelter that is not in a residential area.

Geri Williams mentioned that she felt that there should be a town-wide survey to hear what we have to say about what our job is with regard to the unhoused. She felt that some may feel that Hartford is bearing too much of the regional responsibility. `

Michael Redmond reported that the Haven was scheduled to come before the Planning Commission this Tuesday. He anticipated a vigorous discussion which he looked forward to. He gave an overview: Twin Pines is scheduled to build an apartment building that would include a supportive housing model of 5-600 square foot units. These would be subsidized and affordable requiring residents to pay no more than 30% of their income. There are many people currently on the Coordinated Entry Registry that would qualify. The Haven would provide support for residents. The Haven would also be constructing a low-barrier shelter that would focus on the Winter months. This would allow people to find shelter without identification and people with pets. During the day, people can gather at the resource space and access services to help find permanent housing. The Haven had submitted the architectural drawings and documentation to the Town regarding this plan to the Town.

RV Policy Updates

Bryan reported that the ball is currently in the court of the Planning Commission to allow people to stay in RV's. Simon reported that the Planning Commission had decided to review the suggested amendment subsequent to their review of the Haven/Twin Pine's Proposal.

Michelle Boleski reported that she was wishing to be part of a solution for our town but that she felt that her perspective had not been listened to in the past.

Deb Windslow asked how she could find out about the current proposal regarding RV Amendment to the Planning Commission. Simon said that he would include the current proposal in the minutes of this meeting. (He subsequently discovered that the current version is not ready for publication. This will be shared, as soon as it is completed.)

Ally moved adjournment. Scott seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Simon Dennis