

Hartford Ad Hoc Committee on Emergency Shelter June 16 | 5:00 PM Via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Ally Tufenkjian, Scott Sablan, Bryan Luikart, Simon Dennis, Tom Peltier

Community Members Present: Marie Alvin, Lannie Collins, Heidi Duto, Gerry Williams,

Bryan Luikart, called the meeting to order at 5:05 and called for a motion on the Minutes of 5/19.

**Ally moved to approve the amended minutes
Scott seconded. All present approved.**

Scott suggested we need to clarify why a standing committee on homelessness is helpful to the town and the selectboard. Ally suggested we refer to the 2020 committee report on homelessness

Geri Williams suggested we establish the responsibility for the homeless issue. Do we distinguish between a “Hartford person” or are we responsible for all the homeless in the Upper Valley? All the homeless in the state of Vermont? Hartford is seen as being the town that will take care of homelessness. Geri is not happy with the growth of the Haven and feels it will draw more to this town. She urged the committee to consider asking the town residents what they want the town to do about the homeless issue.

Lannie Collins doesn't want Hartford to become a destination for the unhoused. The problem of homelessness is too big for a town like Hartford. He thinks we should identify the “Hartford” homeless population.

Members agreed on the wording of the Draft Charge for Standing Committee on Affordable Housing and Homelessness and that we add the additional wording on CAP (climate action plan) on housing. Ally suggested adding supporting town planning and development initiatives.

Bryan suggested a small workgroup to draft a memo and suggested himself, Simon and Scott. **Simon moved that we form a workgroup to draft the memo. Ally seconded it. All were in favor.**

Bryan suggested we determine how as individuals we will follow up with the planning commission. Ally suggested we discuss options on how we proceed with the planning commission if the committee no longer exists. Simon suggested Ally, Simon, and Bryan would be sufficient to continue to engage with the planning commission and support that process. Bryan suggested this should be brought up at the selectboard meeting on the 28th.

Geri said that the zoning and planning change needs to reflect the residents. That the effort should not be led by people who are not town residents. Geri feels it would be unfair for a committee to be lead by residents of other towns.

Bryan clarified that he is the only non-resident in this committee and someone else can take his place.

Simon pointed out this effort is not formal and that it is not necessary to move a motion on this regard. We're not authorized to form a committee to replace this committee.

Bryan stated we will start the work on the memo tomorrow in preparation for the selectboard meeting on the 28th. **Simon moved that we pass the charge proposal as amended. Ally seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.**

Simon expressed thanks for all the work done by this committee as this is the last meeting of this committee. Marie said that it seems to her that the town has land that can be designated for RV's. She wonders whether this was ever considered.

Bryan reported that it was considered, but that it is not something the planning commission is currently considering. The current idea is for RV's to be parked on private property with permission of the property owner. Town property would involve regulatory and financial obstacles, etc...

Simon agreed this would be worth investigating in the future.

Simon expressed appreciation for the Hartford Fire Department's engagement in the form of Tom Peletier's steady participation in committee's work.

Ally moved to close the meeting at 6:20. Scott seconded all were in favor and the meeting adjourned forthwith.

Submitted by Scott Sablan and revised by Secretary, Simon Dennis