

Hartford Ad-Hoc Committee on Emergency Shelter

8/19/21 - Meeting Minutes - 5:00 PM

Committee Attendance: Becca White (Chair), Ally Tufenkjian (Vice-Chair), Simon Dennis (Secretary), Michael Redmond, Bryan Luikart, Tom Peltier,

Community Attendance: Martha Hafner, Sarah Daniels, Roger King, Jessica Bowen, Faith DuBois, Lauren Schumacher, Michael Hoyt, Tamie Stammers, Hathorn, Jessica Dubois, Paula Nulty, Andrew Daniels, Cherryl Flemming, Brittany Solomita, Erik Lamoureux, and others.

Becca called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM and called for amendments to the minutes of 8/05/21. There were none.

Michael moved passage of the 8/05/21 Minutes. Ally seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Update on RV Zoning Regulation Amendments

Becca White reported that we have an RV policy in Hartford that limits participation to 14 Days/year. We have been looking into ways to amend these Zoning Regs so as to allow us to stay more than those 14 days.

Becca reported that she and Simon had a good conversation with Planning Department Staff. The originally proposed meeting with the Planning Commission was postponed based on this conversation. Becca, Simon, Planning Department Staff, Tom Peltier, Scott Cooney and a regional fire code specialist met today to discuss options for meeting Fire Code Safety requirements.

There were some general questions about the suggested amendments to the Zoning Regulations regarding the use of RV's as sleeping quarters. A port-o-let sanitary solution is being seriously considered. Various levels of insulation and heat were discussed.

It was mentioned that a feeling of mistrust is happening around these issues. Issues relating to the park and ride were mentioned as the "elephant in the room."

Becca White reported that the issues that had been mentioned regarding the Wilder Park and Ride were not related to the work of this Committee. It was stated that neither HADCES nor any member of the Committee have been involved in supplying RVs or locating unhoused individuals at the Wilder Park and Ride. Simon Dennis reinforced the point that he had not had any involvement in either of these activities.

Role of the Committee

Becca White called for comment.

Simon Dennis said that he feels that the Committee should continue to shine a light on the problems that exist and that were projected to get worse over time.

Michael Redmond supported the analysis and validity of the work of the committee. He also said that a continued focus on a shelter for the winter and mentioned that a local church has stepped forward to allow the Haven to use it as a warming shelter. He also spoke about the need for more affordable housing in Town, and the Town's successes in this regard along Rt 5.

Martha Hafner introduced herself and mentioned that the HADCES Committee is being seen as a pioneer in the State. She stated that the work that is being done here is being shared with other areas in the state.

Becca White offered to include anyone who wished to be included in email postings regarding agendas and minutes. Ally Tufenkjian reminded everyone about the pending hire of the Community Wellness Officer that would likely be engaged in related work.

It was stated that the work of the Committee will be discussed at the Selectboard Meeting on Tuesday, August 24th at 6:00 PM.

Bryan moved to adjourn the meeting. Ally seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm.

HADCES's next meeting will take place at 5:00 PM on September 2nd.

Please note the new attendance link that will be in effect through the end of September:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84153154638?pwd=a0hRS3hpd1dhbXAveDNqOU9hZ0lDZz09>

Submitted by Simon Dennis, Committee Secretary