

**DRAFT 2 Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2023**

Attendance:

In-Person: John Haffner (Chair), Jennifer Kravitz, Dan Nott, Nancy Trottier

Remote: Ally Tufenkjian (Selectboard Liaison): Lori Hirshfield (Staff)

Members of the Public (remote): Marie Alvin and Michael Redmond

1. Call Meeting to Order

John Haffner called the meeting of the Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness (HCHH) to order at 6:05 PM, and read the public notice regarding a hybrid meeting format.

2. HCHH Member to do Meeting Minutes

Dan Nott agreed to do the Minutes.

3. Review Order of Agenda

News from Committee Members was moved to do before the Town Plan Housing Chapter Update to accommodate Lori Hirshfield having to leave the meeting early.

4. Approve August 31, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes

Jennifer Kravitz moved to approve the August meeting minutes. Dan Nott seconded the motion which then passed.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Committee Member Openings Update

Nancy Trottier, the most recent addition to the Committee, introduced herself and her background in social work, and the other members introduced themselves as well.

7. News from Committee Members

Lori Hirshfield reviewed information she provided to the SB in a memo for its September 19th meeting on the proposed use of ARPA funds for a potential Housing Development Program. She noted that in January of this year the Selectboard identified the potential use of \$150,000 which was set aside for housing. Lori discussed the process of identifying options for the use of these funds; ADUs, “missing middle” housing, and smaller housing projects were highlighted. She noted that one of the initial steps was the Housing Creators Expo in May of this year which staff organized with regional partners. Over 130 people participated, and it was clear that community members were interested, but would need technical assistance from architects, engineers, and builders. The idea is to use ARPA dollars and other resources to provide some technical expertise and financial resources, to help stimulate private sector development of this housing. Lori will be at the October 3rd Selectboard meeting to discuss further. Dan Nott brought in a copy of the NH Housing publication on ADUs which was designed to help homeowners understand the process and benefits of ADUs. John mentioned that there are many

approaches to getting the word out about ADUs taking place around the country, including pre-planned models that homeowners can bring to architects, etc.

(At this time Lori Hirshfield left the meeting.)

John Haffner reported on an email from *CVOEO, Champlain Valley of Economic Opportunity*. They provide support and resources for committees like HCHH, and networking with other committees. John suggested inviting them to the October Committee meeting to learn more about their program/network. John also mentioned this would line up with Fair Housing Month programming.

8. Town Plan Housing Chapter Update – Suggestions and Revisions to Goals, Strategies and Actions

John Haffner provided a refresher on the Town Plan Housing Chapter, and the process of collecting data and stories, drafting, and soliciting feedback on the chapter. John, Jennifer, and Ally attended a recent meeting of the Town Planning Commission/Town Plan Steering Committee to provide feedback from the HCHH August discussion on the update. This included establishing a local rental registry and increasing support for unhoused and vulnerable community members. Next in the process is that there will be a third community meeting. At some point down the road, the Selectboard will review the Housing Chapter update for inclusion in the Town Plan.

Michael Redmond inquired about how the work of the HCHH fits into the Housing Chapter update with regards to homelessness in Hartford. John explained that the HCHH discussed the work of the Selectboard Ad Hoc Committee on Housing and Homelessness and used some of the 2020 Report recommendations to add specificity to the Housing Chapter. *[Included in supplemental materials]* Michael noted that these recommendations didn't include shelters and recommended adding more specific recommendations. John noted that the language could be more targeted, and establishing shelters is a regional effort.

Marie Alvin asked if the Haven ever considered expanding to Lebanon. Michael Redmond responded that they are working with Listen to establish a winter shelter in Lebanon on Mechanic Street. The goal is to have this on-line between December and March. A discussion ensued with different perspectives on its efficacy.

9. Adjourn Meeting

John Haffner made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Jennifer Kravitz. The motion was approved and the meeting ended at 7:13 PM.

Committee Membership as of 9-21-2023

John Haffner, Chair (through 12/12/2024)

Dan Not (through 11/28/2024)

Jennifer Kravitz, Vice Chair (through 4/03/2025)

John Haffner, Chair (through 12/12/2024)

Nancy Trottier (9/18/2025)

Ally Tufenkjian, Selectboard Liaison

Vacant Position

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Lori Hirshfield, Staff Liaison