

Hartford Ad-Hoc Committee on Emergency Shelter

10/28/21 - Meeting Minutes - 5:00 PM

Committee Members present: Bryan Luikart (Chair), Ally Tufenkjian (Vice-chair), Simon Dennis (Secretary), Michael Redmond, Tom Peltier

Community Members present: Martha Hafner, Sue-Ellen Parmenter

Brian called the meeting to order at 5:10 and called for a motion regarding the most recent HADCES Minutes. Ally requested that the current document of the community guidelines be included in the minutes of 10/14/21. Michael moved to approve the minutes of 10/14/21 as amended. All were in favor and the minutes passed.

Review of the Hartford Committee on Homelessness Final Report of February 20th, 2020.

Brian encouraged the current group of Committee Members to review the document and update it, particularly in terms of the current documentation of unhoused and unsheltered community members. He said that this document could be useful for the present committee to refer to the current status. Michael agreed to update on the most recent Point In Time Counts for Grafton County. Martha said that she agreed with the suggestion that Brian was making.

Ally said that a brief summary of the resources that are being offered by the State of Vermont could be useful to include.

Brian said that the section on housing affordability and housing shortages could be updated. Mike Kiess of the Upper Valley could be a resource in this regard.

Simon suggested that the title of the document should reflect the fact that the Document had been updated by the HADCES Committee.

Brian agreed to coordinate the review process asking members to help update particular sections.

Simon moved to delegate Bryan Luikart to oversee the process of revising the Final Report of the Hartford Committee on Homelessness submitted on February 23, 2020. to be up to date and capture issues that are relevant to today.

RV Policy and Planning Commission Special Meeting

Brian mentioned that at the most recent Selectboard Meeting it was agreed that the next step would be to have a Planning Commission Work Session. This meeting would be an open meeting and publicly warned.

Tom Peletier mentioned that the conversation had advanced at the State Level to include a distinction between owner-occupied (which would include suggestions to achieve fire safety) and non-owner-occupied (which would need to meet the current Regulations governing Recreational Vehicles.) He had sent a memo today that is currently being reviewed by the planning department.

As soon as the Work Session Date is set, we will copy the rest of the committee.

Montpelier and Burlington Policy Review

Ally reported that she and Brian had worked on a letter to request a Selectboard review of a Policy similar to the one that was reviewed by Montpelier and Burlington.

Dan Fraser had said that he wished to wait until after the RV recommendation went through. Ally wondered if there might be a place for some constructive pushback on this. Bryan also felt that waiting at this point would not be a good strategy given how long it takes to review. Ally and Bryan agreed to follow up with the Selectboard Chair.

Simon offered to be part of a subgroup to compile and revise policies set in Burlington and Montpelier in a way that might be suitable for Hartford. Martha also said that she would be willing to discuss the history of these policies in Montpelier and Burlington. Ally will reach out to contacts on the Montpelier Task Force.

Simon moved to delegate himself, Ally Tufenkjian and Martha Hafner to compile and revise the policies of Montpelier and Burlington decriminalizing sleeping in public spaces to make it suitable for Hartford, Vermont. Ally seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Bryan called for a motion to Adjourn. **Ally moved adjournment. Simon seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. The Meeting adjourned at 6:13.**

Respectfully submitted.
Simon Dennis

Memo

From: Becca White, Simon Dennis
To: Hartford Selectboard
Subject: Zoning Amendment Request
Date: 10/18/21

To meet the urgent need for increased low-cost housing options, members of the Hartford Ad-Hoc Committee on Emergency Shelter (HADCES) request the amendment of Hartford's Zoning Regulations to allow Recreational Vehicles (RVs) to be used as sleeping quarters. Currently, section 260-34 D (2) of the Zoning Regulations states:

Except in permitted campgrounds, a recreational vehicle may not be used as sleeping quarters for more than 14 days per year.

RVs are defined in the Zoning Regulations as:

Any vehicle having all the following characteristics: (1) used or constructed to permit its use as a conveyance on the public streets and highways; (2) used or constructed to permit its use as a dwelling or sleeping place for one or more persons; and (3) not capable of readily being connected to a community sewer and water service. Includes tent trailers, truck campers, and vehicles converted to sleeping facilities. Does not include mobile homes.

The following paragraphs are requested to be added to Hartford's Zoning Regulations immediately following the sentence "*Except in permitted campgrounds, a RV may not be used as sleeping quarters for more than 14 days per year.*":

Up to three tents or owner-occupied RV's may be used as sleeping quarters, each by a single family/household, for more than 14 days per year providing there are facilities and provisions for independent living, including sleeping, a vented or non-carbon-monoxide-emitting heat source, and bathroom facilities, such as a port-a-john type toilet. A Zoning Permit must be obtained. Such owner-occupied RV's will be subject to to a fire-safety inspection to insure they are equipped with:

- *Wall and ceiling surfaces with a fire spread rating of 200 (or lower)*
- *Mounted fire extinguisher*
- *Heat-activated fire-suppression canister mounted to the ceiling.*
- *Smoke and carbon monoxide detection and notification*

RV's that are not owner occupied may be permitted for use greater than 14 days per year provided they meet the above requirements and that evidence is submitted verifying that the RV meets current NFPA Standards for Recreational Vehicles.