

Town of North Canaan
Housing Steering Committee
January 11, 2022 via zoom 5:30pm

Present: Jocelyn Ayer, Charlie Perotti, Marybeth Wabrek, Ashleigh Bergenty, Dalton Jacquier, Mike Pallone, Will Perotti

Jocelyn opened the meeting at 5:32pm

To date only 33 responses have been received for the survey. We need to increase that number.

Due to scheduling issues the meeting day needs to be adjusted. New day will be the 1st Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm

Ms. Ayer spoke with the Lakeville Journal and is hoping that for next week's paper there will be information regarding the survey. Currently Kent and Sharon are doing surveys as well so hopefully it will be clear. Selectman Perotti put a letter out to the Republican American. He put the survey out at the post office, stop and shop. The town hall is currently locked down again. Ms. Bergenty has put it out to other committees for online. Selectman Perotti will bring to his meeting this evening – member of Cranford Club will be there and he will speak with her about it as well. Ms. Wabrek will send email to the daycare to forward survey to parents and Selectman Perotti will speak to Dr. Roy about getting the survey out to parents at the elementary school. It needs to be put on Northwest Corner Chatter again. Ms. Bergenty will ask brother about getting it out to Rod and Gun Club members.

Community Forum ideas: We need to let residents know the committee exists, answer questions, show how residents can participate. Suggested we hold at least the first one via zoom. Typically we will explain why we are developing a plan, what types of housing the town needs – review the survey and data analysis, possibly show the video that Ted Perotti created if it is thought it would be productive, and walk thru the next steps. We should have people register for the forum so we can get a general sense of how many people will be attending and we can email people to remind them a day or so before.

During forum Ms. Bergenty will speak about Wangum Village, Ms. Wabrek will highlight the Beckley House and perhaps Dr. Roy can speak about the school and housing. Suggestion to invite Bob Whalen from Habitat for Humanity to attend one in the future, but he will be asked to attend our February 2 meeting. One of the biggest questions will probably be around town expense and there will be some push back of people who do not want to have more affordable housing in town.

Discussion of when to hold the forum – decided February 28, 2022 from 7-8pm. Will discuss more at the next meeting February 2.

Mr. Perotti questioned how the other forums have gone in general in other towns. Some of them get a lot of attention and others do not. They are able to dispel some of the myths around this topic and the fact that we are not talking about super low income housing. The plan is supposed to cover a diverse housing need. We want people to come who have questions and concerns about the topic. The zoom format will allow questions to be asked in the chat for the host to follow.

Ms. Ayer showed the survey for people who work in town. The committee reviewed it and approved it. It can be sent to businesses in town and we can request that their employees fill it out.

The next meeting hopefully there will be more survey results and we can talk more about the forum. It would be nice to get at least 100 surveys back. Try to get as many as we can by the next meeting.

At the March meeting we will have forum information and be able to discuss goals and strategies to go forward.

Meeting ended at 6:13pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell
Recording Secretary