

Lyme Affordable Housing Commission Meeting
July 12, 2021

This commission meeting was announced as a hybrid meeting, to be conducted both in person at the Lyme Town Hall and over Zoom. No one attended over zoom, so the recording was stopped, and the meeting became only “in person.” Attending: Tim Hildner (Chair), Carleen Gerber, Carol House, Steve Mattson, Jim Miller, Phyllis Ross, and Tina West. No visitors were present.

Hildner called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

The minutes of the June 7 meeting were accepted as posted.

Old Business:

Public Education Initiative: creating a marketing plan to provide support for affordable housing. West drafted a paper intended to be a starting place for the marketing plan. Her draft included background material on Lyme, previous affordable housing efforts and the need for affordable housing in Lyme. The Commission really appreciated the draft, and much discussion centered around this base. One member stated that over 20% of the residents of Lyme might be characterized as “asset limited, income constrained, employed” (ALICE). Additionally, there continues to be a waiting list for Lymewood, which supplies affordable senior housing with support from both Lyme and Old Lyme. Thus, the Commission generally agreed that there were two distinct, but compatible, needs we should incorporate into our planning and marketing: affordable housing (in general) and housing appropriate for independent senior living. Miller volunteered to help West with additional background material. We look forward to seeing the results from the survey Olstein has been conducting to enhance our understanding of the existing needs in our community. We also look forward to seeing the work that Miller and Gerber are doing to identify various parcels that might lend themselves to affordable housing development in Lyme.

Affordable Housing Plan: We spent time reviewing a draft survey questionnaire that was prepared by RiverCOG with the intent of having a fairly consistent set of information collected across the region. In general, we liked the survey and provided Hildner with some specific suggestions to pass along to RiverCOG.

Based on state recommended actions, Hildner suggested that we create a community-based working group, in order to elicit community input as the Commission moves forward on developing its Affordable Housing Plan. He provided a draft list of working group members comprised of individuals from various organizations in Lyme that might bring particular insight into local affordable housing needs. There was discussion about the pros

and cons of creating this larger group. In the end the Commission supported reaching out to these individuals in a less formal way as we developed specifics for their input. We hope to get their ideas, expertise, and support in this fashion.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Hildner adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Next meeting: Monday August 9 at 6:30 pm. This will be a hybrid meeting with in-person and also zoom meeting.

Respectively submitted,
Carol House