

**Lyme Affordable Housing Commission Meeting
August 9, 2021**

This commission meeting was announced as a hybrid meeting, to be conducted both in person at the Lyme Town Hall and over Zoom. Attending (in person): Tim Hildner (Chair), Carleen Gerber, Carol House, Steve Mattson, Jim Miller, and Phyllis Ross. Visitors: Bob Cope (in person), Sue Cope (zoom).

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

The minutes of the July 12 meeting were accepted as posted.

Old Business:

Public Education Initiative: *creating a marketing plan to provide support for affordable housing.* Miller provided additional information and editing to West's background document for our marketing plan. The Commission thanked both Miller and West for preparing this document and discussed the substance and wording of the document. The Commission moved on to discuss how best to communicate with the residents of the Town. An all-town mailing would cost approximately \$1,000. The town email list is used for emergencies and not general communication. One question was whether to distribute the background document first while we prepare the details of the Affordable Housing Plan. Alternatively, we could wait and deliver a comprehensive plan at one time. Consensus was to wait until we have the total plan. In the meantime, the annual report from the committee to the Town could be tailored around this topic. Hildner also asked for a small space in the Selectman's next newsletter to alert to our upcoming plan. In both, we should lead with the statement that the State requires an Affordable Housing Plan from each town.

There continues to be discussion with various landowners in town about land that might become available in the future to use for affordable housing. We also continue to look at the demand for such housing through the survey that Olstein developed. Members are encouraged to review the responses to date.

Affordable Housing Plan:

As reported during last month's meeting, RiverCOG has developed a survey questionnaire with the intent of having a consistent set of information collected across the region for use in developing both the regional and town-level affordable housing plans. The survey questionnaire has been finalized and is now open to Lyme residents to fill out and provide their input into these developing plans. An announcement of the survey and its link were posted on the Announcements page of the Town's website on July 27th. The survey can also be accessed at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/regionalhousingplan>.

In addition, the AHC has made hard copies of the survey available at Town Hall, the Library and the Lyme/Old Lyme Senior Center. Hildner has already reached out to John Kiker regarding additional steps to make this survey available through other channels and social media used by Lyme residents.

RiverCOG will meet with town liaisons toward the end of August. Hildner will report back to the Commission on any assignments or other ideas that come out of that meeting.

Hildner also mentioned that he had met with Michael Fogliano, Chair of the Old Lyme Affordable Housing Commission, to continue to explore ways in which our towns can work together around affordable housing.

New Business:

We discussed how to handle future meetings with the potential surge in Covid infections. We will continue, at this point, to meet in person and to make zoom available as well. No other new business was discussed.

Hildner adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Next meeting: Monday Sept 13 at 6:30 pm. This will be a hybrid meeting with in-person and zoom available.

Respectively submitted,
Carol House