

Montpelier Housing Task Force Meeting of 11/21/19

In attendance: Mary Alice Bisbee, Jen Hollar, JoAnn Troiano, Polly Nichol, Lisa Maxwell, Liz Genge, Nick Kramer, Mike Miller, Mary Hooper, Jack McCullough

Jen Hollar chaired the meeting. Members introduced themselves to Lisa Maxwell, the new Executive Director of the Montpelier Development Corp.

Nick Kramer from Central Vt. Regional Planning Commission showed slides about: Housing trends in Central Vermont. Nick will send a copy of the slides to Task Force members.

Summary: Housing and population are aging and we are building larger homes in more rural areas.

Mike commented that based on building permits issues Montpelier has added 112 units of housing during the last five years.

Nick Kramer: Housing summit.

Planning committee has met several times. Still in the goal setting stage. Lots of partners. Establishing audience and desired outcomes for summit. Interest in having the really tough conversations about housing. Summit likely won't happen until summer.

JoAnn moved to approve minutes as circulated by Kevin and amended by Polly. Approved.

Jack McCullough arrived.

Lisa Maxwell addressed the group on the Montpelier Economic Development Corporation. Given that we have such a good community resource in Downstreet as an affordable housing developer she feels that the challenge the community has is housing for the work force and the middle of the market. She wants to tackle that challenge and has a housing background. She is interested in seeing growth happen in a way that doesn't negatively impact Montpelier.

Mike Miller on the Housing chapter of the City Plan. Members provided comments on Aspirations C and D.

Mary Alice Bisbee gave a report on the Vt. Interfaith Action meeting that dealt with homelessness. A summary will be emailed separately.

Jack spoke to the budget process. Mike said the Task Force should make a recommendation soon regarding the level of funding for the Housing Trust Fund. There was a conversation about what to propose. Concluded that we would ask for level funding this year with the future goal of having \$250,000 available to fund new multi-family developments. Mike is to ask Kevin to send information about how the funding was used in the past. Jack mentioned that he expects that the Homelessness Task Force will ask to get money from the Trust Fund. Jen will reach out to them. The purpose of the Trust Fund is to fund opportunities to support new housing and help first time homebuyers purchase homes in the City.

The Council will be discussing the budget on December 11th. Jack suggested that the Task Force write a memo to City Council with a Trust Fund request prior to the 11th.

Jen mentioned that the City should continuously look for opportunities to ~~facilitate leverage~~ new housing. ~~Could~~ Adding Murray Hill residences to the city water system ~~be might have been be~~ an opportunity ~~to create an option for future development with water and sewer in the open field?~~ ~~request that some of their undeveloped land be used to build more units.~~ Mike said the amount of development there is limited by the Act 250 permit.

There will be no Task Force meeting in December.