

Town of New Marlborough Housing Committee

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Approved

February 18, 2021

Chair ER called the meeting to order over zoom at 12:03pm.

Committee Members Present: Elizabeth Rosenberg, Will Regan, Mike Smith, Kenzie Fields, Joe Poindexter, Richard Stebbins, Richard Long

Minutes were distributed prior to the meeting and approved without reading.

There was a discussion of whether the committee should make a presentation to the select board regarding the surveys and demonstrate that it matches with the comprehensive plan previously created by the town.

Richard to suggest to the select board that this committee meet with the board once a quarter to facilitate communication. RL to set up Select Board meeting for this purpose on March 22.

It's clear that we need to have a huge educational effort that involves the board and the town's residents to help them understand the issue.

Joe thought that working with the Community Preservation Commission to build a CPA program for NM is important. It was discussed whether it's better to reach out to other committees, go to Select Board or go directly to the community at large. In the end it was decided that without SB approval and interest it would die on the vine, so it must start there. Stebbie stated that CPA takes a lot of work and we discussed whether this committee could take this on and it was decided that we are not prepared to start or manage the CPA process. We would help start the process and look to create a new committee to manage. Stebbie said that the Wikipedia page on CPA is really good.

One question for the town would be to see if tax breaks for affordable housing development would be possible.

Richard pointed out that the NM Central School is effectively a white elephant. There is no possible way that it can be brought into compliance for multiple ADA and fire/safety issues and that in the not very distant future it will close. It would be a great location for a cluster of senior homes eventually.

Committee will gather more information in terms of what can be offered and find ways to reach out to developers to try and attract interest?

It was suggested that we look to other small towns and see what their successful model is. To research this: ER to speak with June Wolf and look for towns outside of the Berkshires with similar demographic profiles as NM.

Kenzie to check with Monterey and Egremont.

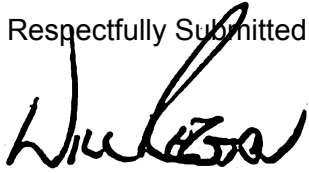
Richard Long - Technical Assistance Grants are open again, due next week. Planning of Housing and Community Compact Regionalization Efforts. Richard will put in a grant to create a compendium of resources for our website.

Town of New Marlborough Housing Committee
Minutes of Committee Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 3/11/2021 at noon.

Adjourned at 12:58

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Regan", written in a cursive style.

Will Regan, Secretary