

Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness
April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes **DRAFT**

Attendance:

Members present: John Haffner (Chair), Nancy Trottier, Jen Kravitz, Brandon Smith (Selectboard Liaison), Maggie Burnett, Lori Hirshfield (Staff)

Members absent: Dan Nott

1. Call Meeting to Order

John Haffner called the meeting to order at 6:15PM and read the script regarding the meeting being hybrid with in-person and remote access.

2. HCHH Member to do Meeting Minutes

Maggie Burnett offered to do minutes for this meeting.

3. Review Order of Agenda

There were no changes to the order of items on the meeting agenda.

4. Approve March 28, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March 28, 2024 HCHH Meeting were amended. Jen Kravitz made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Nancy Trottier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. HomeShare Public Information Session at Bugbee Senior Center on May 8th

The HomeShare Vermont informational presentation will be held at the Bugbee Senior Center on Wednesday, May 8 at 1PM. Members of HCHH are responsible for promoting the event. Lori Hirshfield passed out hard copies of the event flyer which is also available electronically. Jen Kravitz agreed to deliver flyers to business locations not already covered by the Town Office. Lori will check into promoting the event at the April 15th town voting location.

7. Discussion on Hartford Rental Registry

Creation of a Rental Registry for Hartford was discussed. Reasons for a registry include:

- Providing information for residents looking for rental properties
- Monitoring and compiling all rental information in one place
- Creating data needed for grants and development
- Housing Safety

Other Upper Valley towns have registries (Hanover, Woodstock specifically). HCHH could reach out to see how data was obtained. Nancy asked how it would be maintained and kept current. Lori Hirshfield acknowledged the lack of clarity around short/long term rentals and how this could impact data. Brandon Smith mentioned the need for regulation and compliance. Jen Kravitz and Lori recognized the importance of building partnerships with landlords. Lori also stated that the Town may already have some of the needed information about which properties are rental and the registry could be completed by filling in the gaps.

It was determined that the Committee would continue to consider the objectives for a rental registry. John Haffner will reach out to The Haven to ascertain what information they have on rental properties in Hartford. Lori will investigate current data collection in downtown WRJ and determine if it can provide a jumping off point for a rental registry.

8. Housing Development Program Update/Home Creators Expo - June 1st at HACTC

John Haffner reported that the event will be from 10:00 Am to 3:00 PM at the Hartford Area Career and Technology Center. Vendors are signing up to participate in one of three ways:

- Information tables
- Workshops
- One-on-one consultations

More information will be circulating next week.

9. Town Plan Housing Chapter Update

Due to time constraints, tabled until May.

10. Town Plan Economic Development Update

Due to time constraints, tabled until May.

11. Continue to discuss solutions for the unhoused community (e.g., RV ordinance and other recommendations from Hartford Ad-hoc Committee on Emergency Shelters)

Due to time constraints, tabled until May.

12. Update on Town Website Page on Housing

Due to time constraints, tabled until May.

13. News from Committee Members

John Haffner announced that he will be attending the American Planning Association Annual Conference and will report back to the Committee. Lori Hirshfield announced the Hartford Community Coalition's Annual Block Party is scheduled for June 19, 2024. HCHH will participate at the event.

14. Adjourn Meeting

Jen Kravitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Brandon Smith seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting ended at 7:30PM.

Committee Members as of 11/16/2023

John Haffner, Chair (through 12/12/2024)
Jennifer Kravitz, Vice Chair (through 4/03/2025)
Dan Nott (through 11/28/2024)
Nancy Trottier (through 9/18/2025)
Maggie Burnett (through 12/11/2025)
Brandon Smith, Selectboard Liaison
Vacant Position
Lori Hirshfield, Staff