

Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness
May 30, 2024 Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Members Present: John Haffner (Chair), Jennifer Kravitz (Vice-Chair) Dan Nott (remote), Nancy Trottier (remote), Maggie Burnett, Lori Hirshfield (staff)

Members Absent: Brandon Smith (Selectboard Liaison)

1. Call Meeting to Order

John Haffner called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM 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 the minutes for this meeting.

3. Review Order of Agenda

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

4. Approve April 11, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the Minutes. Dan Nott made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Jen Kravitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Continue Discussion on Hartford Rental Registry

Dan suggested we refer to the document as a directory rather than a registry. Incentives for landlords to participate were discussed as were reasons landlords would not want to list rental units, benefits would need to outweigh concerns. Information included in the directory would need to be determined with consideration for what would be made public. What would the document look like? Spreadsheet? How would it be accessed and updated? Dan suggested looking at registries from other towns (Burke, VT). Lori will reach out to Planners in other communities if they have done registries and their experiences. She also will get information to the Committee on the HUD housing affordability information for this area.

It was determined that John will invite Deb Colt (regional Landlord Liaison) located at the Upper Valley Haven to our June meeting to discuss the work she has done in this area and the importance of creating positive relationships through clear communication with landlords.

7. Participation on June 27-29 Housing Insecurity Workshops

Lori presented information about the upcoming Housing Insecurity – A Telling My Story Workshop on June 27-29 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley. Lori

has previous experience with this type of storytelling event and suggested participation would inform the committee by moving beyond the facts through personal connections. Jenn thought she would attend and possibly Maggie and John to portions of the program.

8. Continue Discussion on Solutions for the Unhoused Community

John Haffner informed the committee of the creation of a new HCRS fund to help folks who are on the cusp of homelessness. How could our committee and/or the Town of Hartford support this initiative? Is there an avenue through which a similar fund could become part of the Master Plan? John will see if someone from HCRS can speak to us about how we can help.

Woodstock's one year pilot program, "Lease to Locals" is funded by Woodstock's 1% local option tax and provides incentives for landlords to rent to people working in the area. We will monitor the impact of this program.

9. Home Creators Expo - June 1st at HACTC

John Haffner reported the line-up of participants for the Home Creators Expo is varied and strong and there are more than ninety registrations for the event. Participants include those offering permitting, building, financial and planning resources. The event runs from 10AM-3PM.

10. Update on Town Website Page on Housing

Dan Nott shared the work he has done to create a housing section on the Town website. Suggested headings include: Upcoming Events, Housing News, Resources, Quick Facts. Lori suggested the housing section be dynamic with updates, pictures, and graphics. Dan will work with Danielle from the Planning and Development Office to get something up and running that we can build upon.

11. News from Committee Members

Lori Hirshfield reported that HCHH has a table at the Hartford Community Coalition Block Party on June 19th from 5-8PM. Lori will pull together information to pass out and asks that committee members let her know how they can help.

12. Adjourn Meeting

Dan Nott made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jen Kravitz seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting ended at 7:32 PM.

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 12/11/25)
Brandon Smith, Selectboard Liaison
Vacant Position

Lori Hirshfield, Staff Liaison

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