

Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness September 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Members Present: John Haffner (Chair), Nancy Trottier, Maggie Burnett, Brandon Smith (Selectboard Liaison), Lori Hirshfield (staff)

1. Call Meeting to Order

John Haffner called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. He then read the script regarding the meeting being a hybrid format with in-person and remote access

2. Review Order of Agenda

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

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Report from September 3, 2024 Selectboard Update

John Haffner reported that the update presented to the Selectboard on September 3, 2024 was well-received. They were interested in the rental inventory and how the collected information might address issues such as rent control in Hartford. The Selectboard supports the continuation of the registry initiative.

5. Next Steps for Rental Inventory Workgroup

Next steps for the Inventory Workgroup are to assess where and with whom available information sits. Lori Hirshfield will reach out to the Assessor's Office to determine what information is available. Maggie will create a list of questions that can be addressed with organizations including Twin Pines and The Haven. Brandon will continue his research on the relationship between rent control and minimum wage in the Upper Valley and the ongoing litigation around Real Page.

6. Continue to Discuss Solutions for the Unhoused Community

There were a variety of ideas concerning directions HCHH can take to focus on solutions for the unhoused community

- Revisit suggestions from the Hartford AD HOC committee on emergency shelters
- Review the Hartford Housing Chapter
- Create connections with Lebanon Housing First
- Review Unhoused study completed prior to COVID.

7. Update on Town Website Page on Housing

There was no report

8. HCHH Participation in the Hartford Community Coalition Block Party rescheduled to 10/18

It was determined that HCHH will participate in the October 18 Block Party. Ideas for engaging attendees include a "Story Core" opportunity for folks to share their housing stories or an active way for people to record answers to a survey.

9. News from Committee Members

John reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Twin Pines Housing Trust 18-unit building next to The Haven was a wonderful event. Maggie requested adding a monthly report on Upper Valley housing projects to the agenda.

10. Adjourn Meeting

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

Committee Members

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

Lori Hirshfield, Staff Liaison