

Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Members Present: John Haffner (Chair), Jen Kravitz, Nancy Trottier, Maggie Burnett, Dan Nott (remote), Lori Hirshfield (staff), Joe Denny, guest

1. Call Meeting to Order

John Haffner called the meeting to order at 6:05PM. 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

Joe Denny, Hartford resident and Operations Manager for Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity was introduced as a guest. There was no public comment.

4. Approve October Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the minutes. Maggie Burnett made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Dan Nott seconded the motion. The motion was approved with John Haffner abstaining because he was not present at the meeting.

5. Next Steps for Rental Inventory

Maggie presented the next draft of the Rental Inventory. There was discussion about what information is likely available from other resources, and interest in obtaining more information on rental rates. Given the possibility property owners may be concerned about sharing this information, John suggested including a question with various rental rate ranges based on state charts on affordability thresholds by income and household size. Lori said she could gather this information. Jen asked about available State information on short-term rentals. Other suggestions included collecting the number of bedrooms for each rental unit, and asking if they have a waiting list. The group concluded to include the suggestions in the next inventory draft. Dan asked about distribution and requirements for completing the inventory. Lori suggested making it available through multiple networks electronically and hard copy and seeing what transpires.

6. Review of Town Assessor Data Summary

Lori reported that she had an initial review of data from the Assessor's Office and will report on pertinent findings from the Data Summary at a future meeting.

7. Potential List of Resources to be Included in Property Tax Bills

John Haffner questioned how best to provide resources to Hartford residents who will be struggling to pay tax and utility bills in an effort to help residents remain in their homes. Lori suggested connecting with JD Hawks, Communications and Media Specialist to explore how to get information to the general public about resources. Nancy stated the importance of

information coming out before bills are due. John will follow up on this with JD Hawks.

8. Continue Discussion on Solutions for the Unhoused Community

Nancy Trottier and Maggie Burnett attended the NHCEH Regional Roundtable on Homelessness on Friday, October 11 at the Kilton Library. Nancy reported it was a worthwhile informational event highlighting ongoing initiatives throughout the Upper Valley. A final report will become available once NHCEH completes scheduled roundtables throughout NH. Nancy highlighted cooperation between law enforcement and area resource providers. It was suggested that members of Hartford police and fire departments be invited to a future HCHH meeting.

9. News From Committee Members

Lori reported that the Position of Housing Development Specialist has been approved and a job description will be available soon.

10. Update on Town Website Page on Housing

Dan Nott reported that he will be contacting the Planning and Development Department Administrative Assistant to work on this project.

Dan asked if Joe Denny, Operations Manager for Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity (UVHFH), could share information on what UVHFH is doing. Joe offered Habitat's next project is a single-family house on Nutt Lane in Hartford after recent builds in West Fairlee and Lebanon. They are working with LaValley's to increase efficiency while addressing construction costs. Joe mentioned volunteer engagement during down times which started a conversation about sharing volunteer resources with other organizations with the same goals.

11. Adjourn Meeting

Nancy Trottier made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jen Kravitz seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting ended at 7:25PM.

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