

Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness January 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Members Present: John Haffner (Chair), Jen Kravitz, Brandon Smith, Maggie Burnett, Nancy Trotter, Lori Hirshfield (staff)

1. Call Meeting to Order

John Haffner called the meeting to order at 6:07PM. 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 the agenda.

3. Public Comment

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 Jen Kravitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

5. Next Steps on Rental Inventory Survey Review

Next steps were tabled to the February HCHH Meeting.

6. Senior Housing Solutions

Jen Kravitz presented demographics concerning seniors and senior housing in Hartford. The committee discussed reaching out to agencies who work with seniors to create relationships and get a better sense of seniors' housing needs and other issues including payment of property taxes. Both short and long-term solutions should be considered. Jen will reach out to HomeShare and Listen to begin the conversation.

7. Continue to Discuss Solutions for the Unhoused Community

It was reported that the emergency shelter in Lebanon is now open.

8. News From Committee Members

Lori Hirshfield and John Haffner announced the upcoming film, "Just Getting By" will be screened at St Paul's Church, 749 Hartford Avenue, White River Junction on Sunday, February 2 from 5:30-8:30PM. The event will include a panel discussion on food and housing insecurity.

Brandon Smith met with Michael Redmond, Executive Director of The Haven where they discussed the efficacy of the point in time count and how it impacts federal funding. The point in time count is scheduled for January 22, 2025.

The Committee discussed the resignation of Hartford's Police Chief and how fortunate Hartford is to have officers who understand the needs of the unhoused population. The Committee also

discussed the Supreme Court upholding the illegality of sleeping outside and how it impacts the unhoused population.

10. Update on Town Website Page on Housing

Dan Nott provided an outline of the website content. The committee offered no changes.

11. Adjourn Meeting

Brandon Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Nancy Trottier seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting ended at 7:10PM.

Committee Members

John Haffner, Chair (1/6/2027)

Jennifer Kravitz, Vice Chair (through 4/03/2025)

Dan Nott (through 11/25/2026)

Nancy Trottier (through 9/18/2025)

Maggie Burnett (through 12/11/25)

Brandon Smith, Selectboard Liaison

Lori Hirshfield, Staff Liaison