

## **Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness February 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes DRAFT**

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

### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

John Haffner called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.

### **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 January Meeting Minutes**

There were no changes to the minutes. Nancy Trottier made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Dan Nott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **5. Next Steps on Rental Inventory Survey Review**

John Haffner presented the 2/23/25 draft of the Hartford Rental Housing Inventory. This draft includes average rental rates based on information from the 2024 Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) noting that the rental rates include utilities. Adding an additional open-ended question encouraging communication between property owners and HCHH was suggested and agreed upon. The survey will be available both online and as hard copy. A distribution plan may include targeted outreach (mailing), reaching out to property owners via phone and adding the survey to appropriate town websites. Dan will create a flyer with QR code to promote the survey. Lori and Maggie will meet to complete final edits. A survey update will go to the Hartford Town Manager and Selectboard. Rollout could start mid-March. The Department of Planning and Development will handle data collection and assessment.

### **6. Senior Housing Solutions**

Jen Kravitz reported that she met with Shari Borzekowski at HomeShareVT and they continue to find matches for homesharingdraft watermark. Lori reported that VPR did a story about HomeShareVT. Jen is looking to get information about a work group that supports seniors through Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center.

### **7. Continue to Discuss Solutions for the Unhoused Community**

Jen Kravitz reported watching "Just Getting By," a documentary about Vermonters struggling with food and housing insecurity. Jen suggested we all watch it and invite friends and neighbors to do the same to create a call to action. This led to a further discussion on how HCHH could best support the unhoused community through a specific project, direct support via donations of needed supplies, building partnerships to create housing solutions and gathering to share information with other invested groups such as Housing First, The Haven, Twin Pines.

## **8. News from Committee Members**

Dan inquired about support for the upcoming property assessment and its impact on community members. Lori reported that there will be information to help homeowners navigate the new evaluations and increased taxes.

Jen reported that the Good Neighbor Clinic will gather signatures for a second time to get on the ballot for Town of Hartford funding. They will be asking for signatures at Candidate's Night on February 24.

Brandon suggested creating partnerships with area organizations and businesses to think about out-of-the-box to find housing solutions such as making the building of ADUs easier and more affordable. There was a brief conversation about building on the 2023 and 2024 Home Creators Expos coordinated between Vital Communities, Town, and TRORC.

## **9. Update on Town Website Page on Housing**

Dan reported that he is working with Danielle Taylor to get the HCHH website up and running. Lori will supply "quick stats" for additional interest/information. It was also suggested that Dan add a link to the documentary, "Just Getting By."

## **10. 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 7:32PM.

## **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