

Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness

June 26, 2025 Meeting Minutes Approved

Members Present: John Haffner (Chair), Jennifer Kravitz (Vice-Chair), Dan Nott, Nancy Trottier, Maggie Burnett, Brandon Smith, Lexi Webster (staff)

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Review Order of Agenda

Brandon Smith requested a discussion on future planning be added to the agenda. John suggested including this under News from Committee Members.

3. Public Comment

Angela Zhang attended virtually and introduced herself. She explained that she was primarily attending to learn more about the committee.

Laura Simon offered information about the public safety coalition on Homelessness, Drugs and Safety which was convened to address resident concerns around these issues. She proposed bringing our two groups together to broaden the discussion and brainstorm possible solutions (see agenda item 7).

4. Approve May Meeting Minutes

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

5. Rental Inventory Survey Distribution Status

Lexi reported that no additional surveys were filled out during the HCC Block Party. Presently 24 property owners and 31 renters have completed the survey. The committee agreed that there will be one more push before the August 31 deadline.

6. Senior Housing Solutions

- Lexi reported that Shari Borzekowski was happy with the attendance at the Homeshare presentation on June 18 at the Bugbee Senior Center.
- Jen Kravitz reported that she met with Mark Bradley (Bugbee Center) and Katie Williams (Hartford Community Nurse) on possible solutions for isolated seniors. They are forming a group that will create various outreach initiatives to help with transportation needs, address food and housing insecurities and create community.

7. Continue to Discuss Solutions for the Unhoused Community

- Lexi reported that the town has purchased a copy of *Just Getting By* and will schedule a screening date before the end of 2025. The committee suggested a Sunday afternoon with a location to be determined. Lexi and Maggie attended the screening at DHMC and

thought that while the panel discussion was informative, a community conversation might be beneficial following the documentary.

- As mentioned above, Laura Simon mentioned that the coalition on Homelessness, Drugs and Safety has been formed in Hartford to address residents' concerns. Some members of HCHH may attend a coalition meeting soon so that our two groups can work together more.

8. Hartford's Big Little Build: Small-scale Housing Pilot Project

- John, Lexi and Maggie attended the June 4 meeting of the Hartford Business Revolving Loan Fund to discuss possible financial support for residents beginning the planning and permitting processes to build Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and other types of small-scale development. Crystal Pearson of HBRLF agreed to work with the HCHH as she has been through the process herself. Crystal and HBRLF Chair Jay Zanleoni will attend the HCHH July Meeting for further discussion.
- Lexi reported that she has been in contact with Lina Menard of Niche Consulting about "ADU 101" classes. Niche Consulting offers a variety of potential housing solutions and may be a resource that we want to tap in the future.

9. Update on Town Website Page on Housing

Dan did not have any new information to report regarding this topic.

10. News from Committee Members

- Brandon Smith requested that HCHH schedule a future work planning session to brainstorm hopes, dreams and achievable goals. The committee will include this discussion at their August 2025 meeting.
- Lexi reported that she met with Jo-Anne Unruh and Kendra LaRoche from the Special Needs Support Center in White River Junction and that they would like to come to HCHH's August meeting to discuss possible collaboration opportunities.
- Lexi reminded the group of the July 9th Modular Housing Facility Tour in Claremont, NH. We will meet at Town Hall at 9:15AM.

11. Adjourn Meeting

Jen Kravitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Nancy Trottier seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting ended at 7:34PM.

Committee Members

John Haffner, Chair (through 1/6/2027)

Jennifer Kravitz, Vice Chair (through 4/28/2027)

Dan Nott (through 11/25/2026)

Nancy Trottier (through 9/18/2025)

Maggie Burnett (through 12/11/25)

Brandon Smith (through 3/1/26)

1 vacant Committee Member Position

Lori Hirshfield, Staff Liaison

Lexi Webster, Staff Liaison