

Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness

October 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes Approved

Members Present: Jen Kravitz (Vice Chair), Dan Nott, Nancy Trottier, Rob Hebert, Maggie Burnett, Lori Hirshfield (staff), Lexi Webster (staff)

1. Call Meeting to Order

Jen Kravitz called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

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 September Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the minutes. Maggie Burnett made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes as presented and Jen Kravitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Lexi debriefed John Hafner's presentation to the Selectboard on September 30, 2025. John summarized the results from the Rental Inventory Survey and illustrated how they support the Big Little Build Pilot Program. Selectboard response was positive and HCHH will continue to build out program specifics toward inclusion in the FY27 Hartford Town Planning and Development Department budget.

Lori reported that Hartford's acceptance into the VT Homes for All: 802 Home project (see News from Committee Members) could create some overlap with the Big Little Build program. Lori and Lexi await further information on this program before understanding how these two initiatives will intersect.

6. Continue to Discuss Solutions for the Unhoused Community

Lexi reported that eighteen people attended the screening of *Just Getting By* at the Bugbee Center on September 21. A good discussion followed the documentary. The Hartford Village Library will make the film available to the public for private showings.

Jen reported that Will Towne is the New Executive Director of The Haven. Jen acknowledged an uptick in numbers of individuals utilizing The Haven's Community Market. Jen and Nancy Trottier are working with Hartford's Community Nurse to assist seniors who are struggling.

The committee concluded that volunteering for established social service organizations is the best short-term practice for helping individuals struggling with housing and food insecurities.

7. News from Committee Members

Lexi announced that Hartford has been chosen to be a pilot community for VT Homes for All: 802 Homes, a State program offering pre-approved permit design guides and technical assistance for developing missing middle housing. The Hartford Planning Department awaits next steps for participation in this program.

Nancy, Lexi, and Lori attended the Housing Solutions Breakfast held by Vital Communities on September 25. Insights include continued struggles with construction costs and land availability as well as acknowledgement of unreliable state and federal assistance and the need to work locally to develop partnerships and creative solutions.

Jen attended a neighborhood meeting regarding a potential housing development on privately-owned land above Dothan Brook School in White River Junction.

8. Adjourn Meeting

Nancy Trottier made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Maggie Burnett seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting ended at 7:05PM.

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 9/1/2027)

Maggie Burnett (through 12/11/2025)

Rob Hebert II (through 7/13/2027)

Ashley Andreas, Selectboard Liaison (through 3/3/2026)

Lori Hirshfield, Staff Liaison

Lexi Webster, Staff Liaison