

Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness

August 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Members Present: John Haffner (Chair) Nancy Trottier, Dan Nott, Maggie Burnett, Ashley Andreas (remote), Lexi Webster (staff). Guests: Gwen Tuson, Tad Montgomery, Jesse Pollard

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Review Order of Agenda

There were no changes to the order of the agenda.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment

4. Approval of July Meeting Minutes

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

5. COVER Home Repair Representatives' Presentation

COVER Executive Director Helen Hong and Home Repair Director John Heath presented an overview of the many services provided by COVER Home Repair. Staff and volunteers focus on three main areas:

1. Critical Repairs including urgent needs
2. Safely/mobility concerns including ramps, bathrooms, and other home modifications
3. Weatherization efforts such as air sealing, windows and insulation

In 2025, COVER worked on ninety homes in 29 towns with ~50% being mobile homes.

HCHH will help to spread the word, refer projects, and potentially volunteer as needed.

6. Debrief on August 12th Selectboard Affordability Initiative Brainstorm

John Haffner, Lexi Webster, Nancy Trottier, Jen Kravitz and Maggie Burnett attended the Selectboard's Affordability brainstorming session on August 12. Takeaways included:

- Cross pollination between HCHH, Resilient Hartford, Energy Commission, and the Selectboard as a good first step
- "Quick wins" were not very evident, but common threads emerged on how long-term solutions are viable
- Committee members are ambassadors, spreading the word of work being done and resources available
- More conversation is needed

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

Hartford's Big Little Build launch event will be Thursday, September 3, 5-6:30PM at the Bugbee Senior Center. Lexi passed out flyers for committee members to display throughout town. The hope is that interested participants will present their project to the committee along with the Planning Department for review.

8. Continue to Discuss Solutions for the Unhoused Community

John joined Executive Director of The Haven, Will Towne, to informally meet with neighbors of the new shelter due to open this fall. John was encouraged by the thoughtful and positive response they received.

9. News from Committee Members

There was no additional news from committee members

10. Adjourn Meeting

Dan Nott made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Nancy Trottier seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting ended at 7:43PM.

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 12/08/2027)

Ashley Andreas, Selectboard Liaison (through 3/2/2027)

Lori Hirshfield, Staff Liaison

Lexi Webster, Staff Liaison