



**Town of New Fairfield
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, Connecticut**



**HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

Members present: Anita Brown, Chairwoman
Kathleen DiTullio, Vice Chairwoman
Liz Yoho
Rich Kalinka
Jim Mandella

Members absent: Roberta Anderson
Kathy Hull

Ex-Officio: Selectwoman Khris Hall
Tom Kavaliauskas, Zoning

Ex-Officio absent: Cory Neumann, Planning

The meeting was called to order at 7:44 pm by Chairwoman Brown. The pledge of allegiance immediately followed.

Correspondence and Announcements

There were none.

Approval of Minutes from February meeting

*Ms. DiTullio moved to approve the February 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Mandella and passed 4-0-1.
Aye: Brown, DiTullio, Yoho, Mandella
Abstain: Kalinka*

New Business

Discussion of Strategies and Timeline to Roll Out Survey to Residents

Ms. Brown discussed the timeline for the roll out of the survey with a start date of March 16th to the 21st. All of the surveys do not have to be sent on the same day. She asked everyone to reach out to the groups they were involved with and that she had listed in the spreadsheet.

Ms. DiTullio asked if it would be okay to mention the survey at the Business Happy Hour being sponsored by the EDC on Thursday and all agreed it would be fine.

Ms. Ayer said it is important to let the community know you want their input and that they should take the survey as soon as possible.

Mr. Kalinka said it seems like the Committee is rushing now. Ms. Ayer said offering people more time doesn't necessarily mean more responses. She said get the word out and assess after a couple of weeks of the opening of the survey.

Ms. DiTullio said second homeowner's might not be in Town in mid-March to complete the survey. Ms. Ayer said in other communities with second homeowners they seem to stay tied into happenings even if they are not in Town.

Ms. Hall said they did not put an end date on the broadband survey rather made a push for the last chance to fill out the survey.

Mr. Kalinka said the time frame does not fit his groups timing and did not understand the push. Ms. Yoho said the results needed to be tabulated before the community forum.

Ms. Hall said she would be putting this survey on the Board of Selectmen meeting for March 23rd and said someone should plan to make a presentation. The survey will be in the Towns newsletter for April 1st. She will also get it into the Town Tribune and will reach out to the News Times.

There was some concern about posting on Facebook but it was decided that trolls did not need to be response to.

Mr. Kalinka asked if someone could take the survey multiple times and Ms. Ayer said Survey Monkey could be set to allow one response per device.

Mr. Kalinka moved to make the survey fillable only one time per machine, seconded by Ms. DiTullio.

Ms. Ayer said it was set for one response.

Mr. Kalinka withdrew his motion and Ms. DiTullio withdrew her second.

Discussion of Format/Timing of June Town Forum to Review Survey Findings

Ms. Brown suggested the forum be held May 9th maybe from 5:30 to 7 pm. Ms. Ayer showed a forum presentation she was holding for Hartland which was holding one at 1 pm in person and one 7 pm virtually. She explained the content of the presentation including why a housing plan is needed, what is included in the plan, definition of affordable housing, how much stock the community has, the housing options, survey results.

The Committee liked the idea of two meetings, one in person and one virtual. Ms. Ayer said they could wait until the next meeting to set the dates for the forum.

Old Business

Confirmation of Final Edited Survey

All were onboard with the survey as it was finalized.

Reports from Working Subcommittees

There were no reports at this meeting.

Board Comments

Ms. Brown said she would send a panel talk held in Fairfield which addressed myths and facts of affordable housing.

Mr. Kavaliauskas said the Zoning Commission had chosen the firm to help with the regulation updates and rewrites. The process will take about one year.

Public Comments

There were none.

Adjournment

Ms. DiTullio moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm, seconded by Ms. Yoho and passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen R. Badd".

Recording Secretary

Received by email on 03/09/2023 @ 11:28 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield