

## **Housing Committee Meeting Minutes: 12:30 pm August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Scott Campbell, Joe K., Pam Dearborn, Dawn Cross, Nicole Gratton (intern NVDA), Irene Nagle, Patricia Janssen, Alice Kitchel

*Committee Mission: "To support economic growth by improving the overall quality of residential and commercial properties in St. Johnsbury."*

### **Rental Housing Improvement Incentive Program Update**

The grant review committee shared lessons learned from the 2020 RHIGP process. The program has awarded \$17,426.50 in grant funds for \$43,826.23 in improvements. The housing fund has a balance of \$12,573.50. The Committee will discuss how best to deploy these funds during the remainder of 2020.

### **COVID-19 & Housing Stimulus Funding**

Dawn Cross from Rural Edge provided an update on the housing stimulus program that is being developed by the legislature. The program will be funded through the CARES ACT and will include \$30K grants to landlords to rehab vacant, blighted, and sub-standard rental housing. These units are required to be available to house the homeless. There is a very short window as all housing stimulus funds must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2020. Rural Edge expects to be able to take applications starting on Sept. 1, 2020.

Inquiries are to be directed to Rural Edge at [RENTALREHAB@ruraledge.org](mailto:RENTALREHAB@ruraledge.org).

### **Other Business**

Joe provided the group with details about the upcoming Vermont Community Development Association's virtual conference on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Joe, on behalf of the Town and the Housing Committee, will present details of the RHIGP at the event.

Nicole Gratton, the organizer of NVDA's upcoming virtual Housing Symposium, provided a *snap-shot* of the two-part event. Part 1 is scheduled for Sept. 17, 2020, from 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm and will focus on market building and innovation. Part 2, scheduled for Sept. 24, 2020 (same time), will focus on technology and efficiency.

Pam provided information about NCHC's interest in a downtown location for a clinic. A downtown location would be more convenient for many of the residents. Potential locations are being discussed.

Scott C. mentioned the need for a housing task force. Several committee members noted that they would participate in the task force. We will add this to our next month's agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm. Minutes submitted by JK.

Next meeting- September 11, 2020 at 12:30pm via Zoom.