

## **Housing Committee Meeting Minutes: 12:30 pm September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Joe, PJ, Alice, Patrick, Pam, Ron, Susan, Betty, Irene

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

### **Organizational Discussion (continued from August 27, 2021 meeting) – All**

Joe mentioned that he had received comments that the way the Housing Committee website minutes and agendas are presented on the Town website provides an optic that the Housing Committee is a Town Committee.

Joe is working on reconstructing the Public Meeting webpage to delineate Town Committees vs. Community Groups.

The group also discussed this group's name, the St. Johnsbury Housing Committee, and how that may look like a Town appointed committee. The group reviewed the VCRD Community Visit Action Plan, which clearly refers to the housing group formed during the Community visit Process as the Housing Task Force. The group discussed the term *task force* and how it may not be appropriate. Other titles discussed included the Housing Think Tank, the Housing Work Group, the Housing Advisory Group. Discussion continued about how the committee functions with no formal organizational structure. No name change was finalized.

Susan mentioned that we should function on a consensus basis, with those attending a meeting voting on items that include initiatives, priorities, etc. by consensus. PJ informed the group that consensus is not a simple majority but requires all present to agree.

Irene mentioned that as a community-based group, there are no requirements for agendas and minutes. The group indicated that they were interested in continuing with agendas and minutes. The group agreed to have three-month leadership terms, which would include a meeting facilitator and note-taker.

Susan C. agreed to be the facilitator, and Pam agreed to be the note-taker for the first three-month term (October 2021 – December 2021).

Joe agrees to continue to schedule the Zoom meetings through his Zoom account.

### **Other Business:**

#### **Patrick provided a project update:**

Cherry St. Project- housing project at the old jail location going well

New Avenue- elevator delivery expected next month, and October 18, 2021, is the target date for occupancy

Purchase of Brightlook Apartments looking good. Tenants get to remain in their units at the same rental rates.

**Warming Shelter:** The previous location of the warming shelter on Hospital Drive is unavailable this winter, and a solution needs to be identified ASAP. Susan and Patrick mentioned that a solution is complex because St. Johnsbury's zoning is very restrictive regarding warming shelter siting. Susan said that maybe the Housing Committee could work on identifying a solution for the warming shelter.

**Armory Bond Vote:** Joe provided a project update and reminded everyone that the bond vote is scheduled for September 14, 2021, in the Welcome Center between 10 am and 7 pm.

**955 Portland Street:** PJ informed the group that Habitat was looking at 955 Portland St. as a potential Habitat housing project. The Town of St. Johnsbury owns the property.

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

**The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2021, at 12:30 pm via Zoom**