

Housing Committee Meeting Minutes: 12:30 pm February 14th, 2020 at NVDA

Attendees: Betty Keller, Alicia Armstrong, Joe K., Diane Drown, Pam Dearborn, Al Dunn, Susan Cherry

Guests: Mark Lavoie, Kim Lavoie

Rental Housing Improvement grant Program:

Joe gave an update about the RHIGP that included the following;

- Town sent program notification to all rental housing owners on Feb. 3 & 4, 2020
- Town purchased advertisements in the Caledonia Record the second week of February (3 ads)
- NVDA included program information in their monthly newsletter
- The RHIGP was presented at the December Landlord Information Exchange and Select Board meetings
- Grant applications are due March 1, 2020
- Awards planned to be made by March 31, 2020

Housing Committee Action Plan: The Committee discussed what next for the Housing Committee?

- Senior Housing -Betty asked about the Senior Housing Forum that was discussed several months ago. PJ reminded the group that the Housing Community Action Network that works through NEK Prosper is the lead on that initiative.
- The group also discussed supporting neighborhoods through efforts to improve assets and amenities like neighborhood parks. The idea of multi-generational parks was discussed along with a town park map. Joe agreed that a town park map on the town website was a good idea.
- The group discussed how to support the development of market-rate housing. Local housing developers attending the meeting commented that they would invest in higher quality housing if they knew there was a market. Members of the committee agreed to reach out to several of our larger employers to see if they thought there was demand for market-rate housing, and if so, how could they support efforts to create market-rate housing.

To Do's:

- Susan C. to talk to the Bike-Ped Committee about improving/creating neighborhood green spaces.
- Joe K. to speak with the Town Beautification Committee about increased beautification efforts within the town parks.
- Pam to talk to the ED of Northern Counties to see how they may be able to support private investment in market-rate housing.
- Joe to talk to the NVRH to see how they may be able to encourage private investment in market-rate housing.

Other Business:

- Joe has been invited to present our RHIGP at the Vermont Community Development Association (VCDA) spring meeting.
- The group discussed the pending bill that would create a state rental housing registration and inspection program.
- Next meeting scheduled for March 13, 2020

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