

Town of Red Hook Housing Committee

Minutes – Meeting of March 27, 2023

Committee Members Present: Vicki Hickman, Michael Cole, Patricia Stewart, Hart Migdal, Hayden Sartoris, Audrey Unson, Trish Dantzic

Liaisons: Julia Solomon, Jacob Testa

Guests: Karen Smythe, Joel Griffith

Regrets: Adrienne Truscott, Aisha Keller

Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the February, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

Updates

Collaboration folders on Google drive are now available to the committee for compiling research and coordinated notes and work products. Group discussed the accessibility of minutes and the committee presence on the website.

Committee page: <https://www.redhookny.gov/511/Housing-Committee>

Town minutes here: <https://www.redhookny.gov/agendacenter>

Hayden reviewed research on the effectiveness of inclusionary zoning practices, which he said have poorer performance in practice than other interventions like a Low Income Housing Tax Credit. Michael has notes after reviewing Red Hook Town Zoning Code for sections which might be addressed in an update.

Guest Presentation Debrief

The committee debriefed the presentation on 2/27 from Tiffany Zezula, Deputy Director, Pace University Land Use Law Center. Discussion included: defining terms e.g. affordability, workforce housing, and how those terms are reflected in committee work and interpreted by different audiences. Committee work should promote new housing but also consider preserving existing affordable housing in the Town. Important to connect housing to other issues in committee work and outreach/messaging.

Mission, Committee Work Plan Discussion and Sub-Committees

The committee reviewed the Town Board draft document provided by Jacob describing the committee's mission, objectives, tactics, and first year work plan. In discussion, the committee organized bulleted sections after "In pursuit of this mission, the RHHC will:" into sub-committee groups, and members volunteered to spearhead efforts for each.

Discussion settled on three groups to start, acknowledging changes to be made in volunteers or tasks as needed:

Opportunities: Michael, Hayden, Trish

Tasks discussed: researching grants and potential partnerships.

Outreach: Patti, Trish, Audrey

Tasks discussed: getting feedback about community needs, collecting information. Listening and presenting information- need to do both.

Zoning: Michael, Hart

Tasks discussed: reviewing code for potential changes. Work may inform comprehensive plan updates related to housing

Other responsibilities in research (e.g. tracking/compiling articles, looking at minutes and initiatives from comparable communities or committees) can be fulfilled by members as needed. Hart offered to support requests for data and/or data analysis from the committee or groups, and to compile housing stock and town profile information. Sub-committees will report out updates in a standing agenda item.

Other Discussion

Presentation to Town Board on 4/26. Most of the committee said they would try to attend, and a proposed presentation will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:00pm at Town Hall. The committee meets monthly on the fourth Monday.